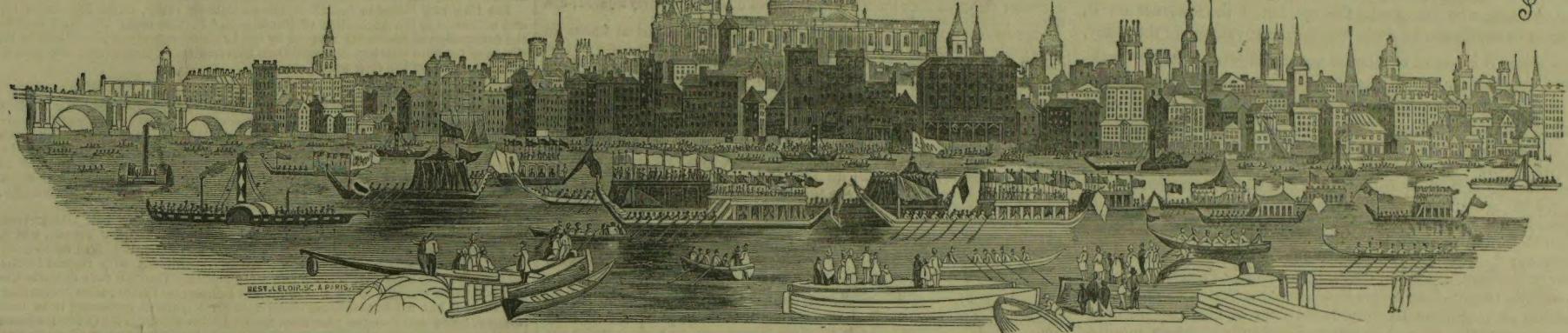


# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 291.—VOL. XI.] FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1847. WITH SUPPLEMENT GRATIS. [SIXPENCE.

## THE FIRST DEBATE.



ULY, and with all fit ceremony, the Session has opened ; the political drama has fairly commenced : the curtain rose on Tuesday, not to "soft music," but to voices in bitter contention, each with a different estimate of the nature of our present difficulties, and a different remedy

for them. From the little less than Chaos we will endeavour to extract some kind of clue to what will be propounded and what will be opposed.

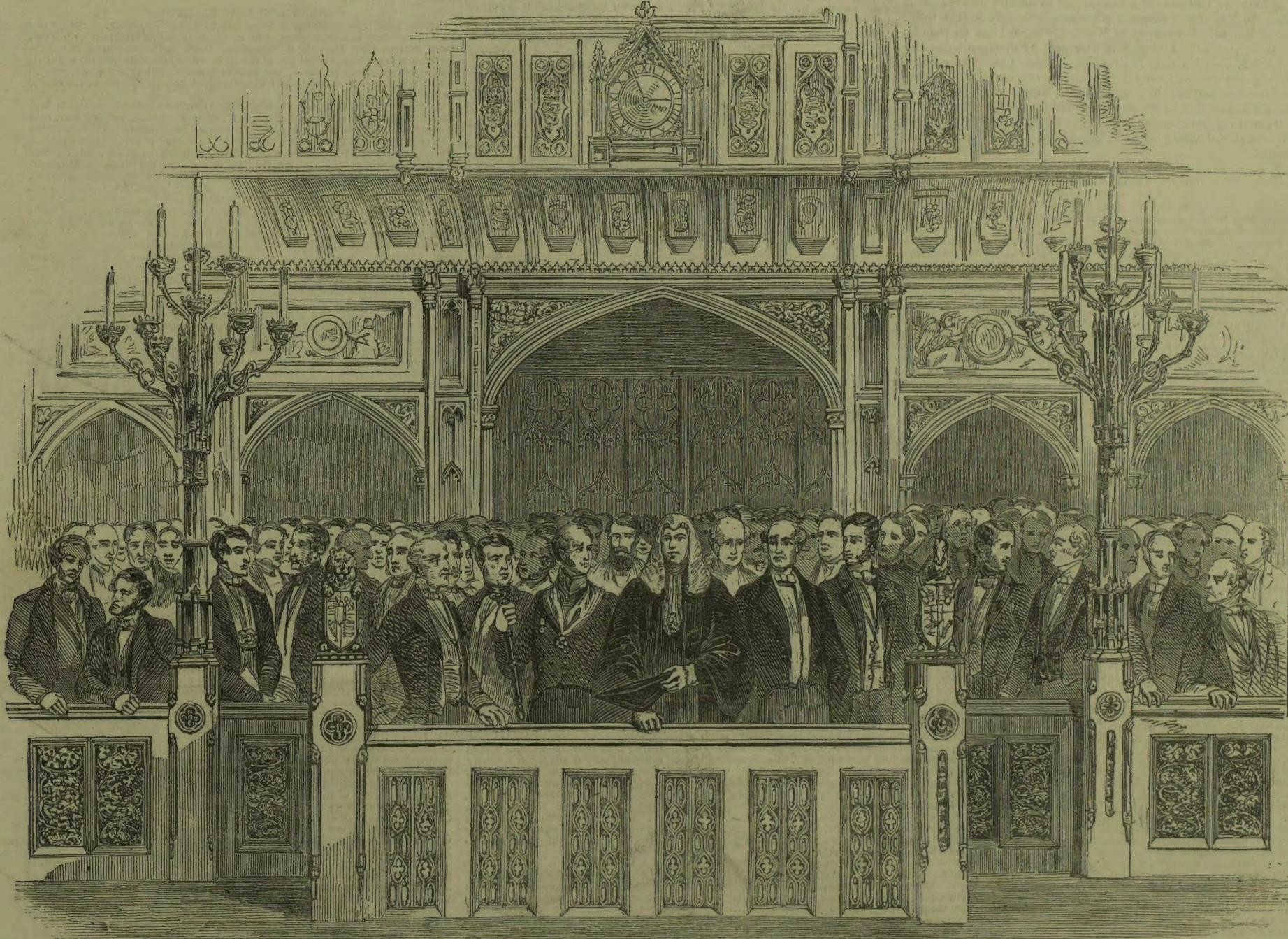
The great question in England is, of course, the recent commercial embarrassments ; the conduct of those who control the Currency, as the cause of that embarrassment ; and the policy of the Government in its interference with the Bank of England, which, like the money it holds, is said to be the root of all evil. It appears, then, that the Government

will not have to apply to Parliament for a bill of indemnity for infringing the law, inasmuch as the Bank Charter Act has not been departed from. The mere knowledge on the part of the public that the Bank could act freely, if it thought proper, was enough to restore a certain degree of confidence. This was the chief argument in favour of the Government interference ; and the concession, slight as it was, was successful. Here, again, the proverbial luck of Sir Robert Peel is apparent : his Bill, so loudly accused of putting all classes to the pinch, stands the shock unmodified ; bullion begins to flow in ; and the Exchanges are turning in our favour, though nothing has been changed in it. The Ministers escape easily ; a few expressions of regret in the Royal Speech, and some hopeful flourishes in the House that the worst is over, leave the much-abused Bank Charter Act to go on as before. Thus is one great difficulty disposed of ; but, unfortunately, there are plenty of others.

The Railways are establishing a continual drain on the means of the people ; they absorb profits, if there are any ; employ the money required for regular trade, and altogether dislocate and confound people's plans and calculations. This question will now, after the country has been half ruined, be taken up by the Government ; the gold-devouring monster is to be taught moderation ; a hook is

to be put into the nose of Leviathan ; though, as Parliament is constituted, the task will be one of difficulty. Chairmen and Directors are very strong in the New House of Commons ; in most cases they are disposed to proceed as rapidly as may be ; the Shareholders have lately begun to wish the expenditure were moderated ; the Government, at last, alarmed by the derangement of the Currency, is disposed to take a similar view of the matter. The reluctance to "interfere with private enterprise," gives way when that private enterprise begins to embarrass the Government. One of the acts of this supplementary session, therefore, is to be one extending the time for completing the lines in course of construction. There is also to be a supervision of the Railway Bills of this session ; the Government, it is rumoured, will claim a power of deciding, on due inquiry, what plans it will be advisable to proceed with, and what will not.

It will at once strike the reader that this might have been done with ten times the advantage it can have now, two years ago. When those few whom the mania left in possession of their reasoning faculties called on the Government, for its own sake, to assert some such power, and not let all who chose to get up a scheme, and apply for a bill to cut and carve the face of the country, and dip as deeply into the pockets of the public as the credulity of the



said public permitted them, the most complete apathy was exhibited. The whole island went mad, and the Government complacently looked on the lunatics. Now the reaction has come, the medicine is produced that should have been given in the height of the fever. When the house is burned down, the watchmen assiduously present themselves with the petty squirt of a garden-engine. It is the great, the besetting sin of our statesmen, that they never will move one inch, before they are driven by public indignation, or public calamity. There does not seem to be one man who dares take the opinion of the few, act on it, and trust to the future to prove it is for the advantage of the many.

Hence arise all kinds of vacillations, and changes of policy, making it impossible to believe that those who govern have any clear idea of their own duties or the necessities of the age. If we must distinguish any one Minister as having less decision than another, it is the present Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir R. Peel, it is said, has always "three courses open to pursue;" but of those he can select one, and stick to it. Sir C. Wood has two courses on every question, and takes both, to the infinite confusion of all things connected with them. Last session, he stoutly refused all advances to Irish Railways, on principle; before it closed, he did what he condemned; he obstinately refused to do anything to relieve the monetary pressure, asserting that the Government could not interfere; within twenty-four hours appeared the letter to the Bank. Up to the present time he would not hear of checking railway enterprise; now the control is assumed—exactly eighteen months too late. What misery and ruin would have been saved had the Government had the courage to do in time what they are attempting to do now?

The Currency and the Railways are the great subjects of English interest, for political theories are quite in abeyance. But when we turn to the other great theme of the week's debate, Ireland, an infinity of questions rush upon us, all of extreme difficulty; Ireland is, indeed, the great political Sphynx, propounding to England her terrible enigmas; and, unless we can solve them speedily, we shall still farther justify the comparison by being devoured by her. The pauperism of Ireland, if it continues to spread and deepen, will absorb the wealth of England, and drag it down, not quite to, perhaps, but towards, her own miserable level.

The Debate, as far as it has brought out the Irish members, does not give any prospect that Ireland has sent us the men fit to meet the occasion. The Young Irelanders, split into sections that do nothing but vapour and abuse each other, only prove, by their manifold follies, how salutary was the check O'Connell held them in. His own course was not, in all things, wisdom; but those he has left behind will make it so by comparison. When every moment should be given to action, they draw up strings of resolutions, all true, perhaps, in the abstract, but as useless, at present, as a code of Laws for the Millennium. They come to Parliament, and it is the same: John O'Connell, the Leader, if they acknowledge any, has nothing but the old, oft-told, tale of misery. Every hour lost in proving what needs no proof is a crime. Action, action, is the great necessity. If Englishmen know nothing of Ireland let those who do take the initiative. Do not talk, but produce something: propose your remedy: come forward with your measures for which you are prepared to take the responsibility: shame the Government into movement: surely, among one hundred and fifty of the chosen leaders of the people, one, at least, may be found who can do, more than declaim. Motions, praying the Queen to assemble the Parliament in Dublin: motions for a Committee to inquire into the mode in which the Union was effected, are worse than folly at this time: they are criminal. Incapacity at Westminster will not be wisdom on the Liffey; and the Union was obtained by means disgraceful to all parties, English and Irish alike. Those two points being thus briefly settled—and ten nights' debate will come to no other conclusion—we implore Mr. Anstey, Mr. Fergus O'Connor, Mr. Grattan, Mr. Roche, and all the representatives of Ireland, not to continue as they have begun, or the Session will only be a six weeks' squabble, exciting much ill blood, but producing no practical result.

#### IRELAND.

##### STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The news from Ireland continues to be of a most heart-rending nature. The assassin still strikes his fatally certain blow.

The following details are given from Limerick:—The victims of assassination were Mr. Ralph Hill, sub-agent to David Fitzgerald, Esq., and a land bailiff named Madden. Mr. Hill, in the discharge of his duty, had made a distress on Wednesday on corn belonging to John Quain, tenant to Benjamin Frend, Esq., who was indebted to his landlord to a large amount. On Thursday they visited Quain's house for the purpose of removing the corn, where they were met by Quain's son, with whom Mr. Hill was talking, when four shots were fired at him and his bailiffs from behind the hedge, and Madden and Hill were killed on the spot. One of the keepers, James M'Mahon, was wounded on the head, the skull having been laid bare by slugs, and Flannery received the contents of a gun shot in the back of the hand. The carmen who went out to bring in the corn seized fire in all directions when the shots were fired. More recent accounts state that Madden was not shot dead, but that little hopes are entertained of his recovery. Two men, named Skehan and O'Brien, are in custody on suspicion for the murder.

In Tyrone, also, a bailiff has been killed in the execution of his duty.

The Limerick papers of Saturday last state that "Mr. Daniel Dillon, a rich farmer and money lender, was waylaid within a furlong of his residence at Capponore last evening, and brutally murdered. His assailants literally stoned their victim to death, and cleaved his head with a hatchet. The deceased had decreed several persons indebted to him at the late quarter sessions, and hence, it is supposed, the fatal vengeance. Dillon has left a young wife and several children. His general character was that of a prudent, industrious man. It is ascertained that four men committed this atrocious outrage."

In reference to the disturbed state of Tipperary, the Earl of Donoughmore, as Lieutenant, in reply to a circular of the Magistrates of the North Riding, observes:—"As Lieutenant of the County, I have felt it my duty to accompany a deputation to the Lord Lieutenant, by whom a statement was laid before his Excellency, which clearly showed the utter impossibility of meeting the secret combinations with which we have to contend by the ordinary operation of the law. Lord Clarendon fully felt the force of our representations, and I do believe has seen the necessity for prompt and energetic measures. I can only say at present, that I firmly rely on his wisdom and determination to do whatever can be done to restore the reign of law and order. With this conviction on my mind, I do not consider it expedient at present to call a meeting of the magistrates of the North Riding; in my opinion, they could add no new facts to those stated by the deputation."

KILCARNEY.—At the last meeting of the guardians of the Killarney Union one thousand paupers were reported to be in the house. Mr. Sinnott, one of the lecturers appointed by the Royal Agricultural Society, at the suggestion of the Lord-Lieutenant, presented himself to the Board, and, having expressed his willingness to proceed on his mission through the Union, asked for the advice and assistance of the Guardians.—Mr. Masham asked the learned lecturer whether he spoke Irish?—"No," replied he, "but gentlemen requiring any assistance would, of course, send an interpreter."—A smile of contempt passed over the face of the interrogator. A long discussion ensued, the upshot of which was, that the Board decided to repudiate the Lord-Lieutenant's lecturer.—"We do not require information," said one, "we have plenty of that, but what we do want is money."—"This all humbug," said Mr. S. Lalor. "Does Lord Clarendon suppose that such miracles would be wrought by this missionary of mangold-wurzel and drainage, without something more substantial than words—something more munificent than his donation of £50?" ("Hear, hear," cried half-a-dozen other Guardians.)—Mr. Cronin quite agreed with Mr. S. Lalor that it was a humbug.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN—EXTENSION TO THURLES.—On Saturday last Sir John Macneill made a trial trip from Ballybroughy to Thurles, a distance of 22 miles. This extension of the main line will be open to the public in a month, making a total of 113 miles—90 on the main line, and 23 of the Carlow branch—and the whole distance, 90 miles, from Thurles to Dublin, was run in three hours, including six stoppages.

CASE OF MR. LANAZE, LATE STOCKBROKER.—On Monday the Court of Queen's Bench decided in favor of the motion in arrest of judgement. Mr. Brown is in consequence left to begin proceedings *de novo*. Mr. Lanaze, it will be recollected, was convicted of embezzlement at the Commission Court for appropriating to his own use the sum of £9000, handed to him by Mr. Clayton Browne, of the county Carlow, to purchase Government stock.

CONCILIATION HALL.—The Association met as usual on Monday. Rent for the week, £40 1s. 7d.

#### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

##### FRANCE.

The *Presse* announces the conclusion of the negotiations between Rome and Austria respecting Ferrara. Austria is to remain in possession of the citadel, and the Pope of the city. The mutual rights of both States were to be officially recognised. The *Presse*, however, adds, that the intelligence requires confirmation.

A frightful collision took place on Saturday morning last, on the Paris and Orleans Railway, at a place called Touy, a very short distance on the Paris side of Orleans. The whole of the persons in the carriages (soldiers and operatives) thirty-six in number, were more or less hurt; several mortally, it was feared. The list of casualties that has been published shows that two were wounded mortally; eight had their limbs fractured; seven otherwise severely injured; and thirteen slightly hurt: in all, thirty wounded.

The following appears in the *Droit*:—"Mdle. Deluzy was set at liberty on Wednesday evening, in virtue of an ordinance, declaring that there was no evidence against her, rendered by the Chambre du Conseil of the Tribunal of the First Instance. Mdle. Deluzy had been in prison since the 15th August, a period of three months."

The receipts of the French railroads, during the last week, were:—Paris and Orleans, 211,700f.; the Centre, 63,852f.; Paris and Rouen, 173,009f.; Rouen and Havre, 68,427f.; Orleans and Tours, 96,172f.; Great Northern, 345,938f.; and Amiens and Abbeville, 14,414f.

*La Presse* (Paris journal) publishes a letter from Syria, stating as a report, that the United States had at length obtained a footing in the Mediterranean by the purchase of that island (Syria) from the Greek Government, for a sum of money equal to the English portion of the debt of Greece, and which would be immediately discharged.

The Council-General of the Seine has passed a formal vote on the question of Free-Trade, declaring that it is of opinion that, in the present state of things, the protection of national industry ought to be maintained; but it at the same time considers that the Customs question calls for revision and improvement.

##### BELGIUM.

The interruption of the diplomatic relations between Belgium and the Holy See excites great sensation at Brussels. This interruption took place under the following circumstances:—A few days before the last Ministry of the Catholic party was overthrown, it appointed an Ambassador to the post then vacant at the Court of Rome. The new Ministers paid no attention to the nomination thus made. After having revoked it, they selected to represent the Belgian Government at Rome one of the most respectable men in Belgium, M. Leclercq. But, whilst the Belgian Ministry wrote to Rome to give notice of this nomination, the Catholic party is said to have addressed to the Pope a sort of denunciation against the new Liberal Ambassador. The Holy Father refused, in consequence, to receive M. Leclercq, accounting for his refusal in terms which appeared to the Belgian Government to imply an intervention of the Holy See in the domestic affairs of Belgium. The Belgian Ministry consequently declared that it would not send an Ambassador to Rome. This resolution has just been maturely discussed in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, on the occasion of a paragraph of the Address, which has been carried almost unanimously in favour of the Ministry.

A man and woman have just been arrested at Bruges, on suspicion of being concerned in the late murder of Mdle. Evenepoel. The man is named Rosseel; he arrived in Bruges from Brussels about a month ago, in which latter town he kept a public-house. A visit paid to their house has brought to light some circumstances which will probably lead to the conviction of the guilty parties. All the purchases made by the prisoners have been paid for in pieces of ten florins; a great many coins of this description were stolen at the time of the murder, and it is proved that he has sold some wedges of gold and silver. The accused were conducted to Brussels on the 18th inst.

##### THE GERMAN STATES.

After several days' deliberation, the Postal Congress, consisting of representatives of the different German Powers, which assembled at Dresden, has adopted a resolution, to the effect that the postage of a single letter, of a weight not exceeding 25 grammes (about three-quarters of an ounce), shall in the States of the Postal Union pay 2 kreutzer (a shape more than  $8\frac{1}{2}$  centimes) for a distance of six leagues, 5 kreutzer (21 centimes) for 20 leagues, and 10 kreutzer (42c.) for all distances exceeding 20 leagues.

##### SPAIN.

It is reported in the highest quarters of Paris that the Queen of Spain is in a condition which promises an heir to the Spanish throne.

The Spanish Cortes were opened on the 15th, with a Speech from the Queen, which is not much more communicative than such discourses generally are. It states, however, that the negotiations with the court of Rome were going on favourably towards their termination. The finances are to be improved—there is to be a just law for the regulation of the press—the people are to have reasonable liberty, and the Montemolinist faction is to be crushed.

The Queen appeared depressed and melancholy, and, contrary to former precedent, received not a single cheer on her way to or from the church. Her august mother was not, however, treated with similar indifference. Everywhere on her passage she was greeted with cries of execration loud as well as deep.

At a meeting of the majority of the Deputies, a resolution has been adopted to impeach Salamanca. The grounds of the impeachment are not stated.

QUEEN ISABELLA'S CIVIL LIST.—From a report published by Sr. Pena y Aguayo, on his administration of the Civil List of Queen Isabella, it appears that the Queen had to pay 32,769,470 reals (rather more than £320,000) for the dowry of the Duchess de Montpensier, and that, of this sum, 12,000,000 of reals are still due; that 6,000,000 were taken from the Queen's funds to form a capital abroad, of which four were consigned to M. Rothschild, to be paid to a well-known General; that the arrears due from the Civil List to the Queen have been converted into rentes, and that this conversion has produced 50,000,000 of reals.

The *Clarion Publico* states that permission to return to Spain has been given to the actor Miral, whose strange expulsion from Madrid a short time ago caused great sensation. The Infant Don Francisco has, it is said, determined to return to the capital.

The Chamber of Deputies elected M. Mon as its president: he was chosen by 135 votes. General San Miguel obtained 39; M. Olozaga, 1; M. Barona, 1; M. Tejada, 1; and two others were lost.

##### ITALY.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany and the King of Sardinia have issued proclamations, in which they condemn, in strong terms, all popular manifestations having for their object to impose upon them conditions as to their policy. At the same time, however, they cause it to be understood that they will act with becoming dignity in the path of reform upon which they have entered.

Lord Minto had an audience of the Pope on the 8th.

Professor Bettini had been reinstated as censor of the press. A *jeûne* was to take place on the 15th to celebrate the installation of the Council of State.

Monsignor Corboli Bussi left Turin on the 9th for Modena, for the purpose of inviting the Duke to join the Customs Union.

The *Atta*, Florence Journal, of the 12th inst., announces as positive the entry of the Austrian troops on the territory of Modena. A battalion of those troops had arrived at Carpi, three leagues in the interior of the Duchy, and others were believed to have taken possession of Massa Carrara.

The Pope had appointed one of the halls of the Vatican for the meeting of the provincial deputies, and placed ten Court carriages at their disposal.

The *Patria* of Florence announces that the Duke of Modena had, on the 12th inst., ordered the occupation of Pontremoli. The inhabitants of that town, however, had completed their preparations of defence, and were then in a condition to repel an invasion of the Modenese troops. The entire population was under arms; barricades had been erected in the streets, and the able bodied men of the neighbouring country, with the clergy at their head, had entered the place and offered their services to the authorities. On the 8th, 150 men, armed with carbines, marched in from Zeri, and several refugees from Fivizzano, and volunteers from Pisa and Leghorn, had likewise arrived. The Grand Duke of Tuscany, on the other hand, had concentrated all his disposable forces along the frontier.

The Duke Storza Cesarini, who married Miss Shirley, the grand-daughter of Robert, Earl Ferrers, has lately succeeded in establishing an infant school at Genzano, near Rome, which has excited considerable interest from the fact of its being the first school of that description which has ever been established at or near Rome. The Duke has for the last seven years been unremitting in his exertions to introduce this system of education on his estates, but during the pontificate of the late Pope infant schools were strictly prohibited. Pius IX., however, has acted with greater liberality, and conceded his sanction, and the Duke has placed the establishment under the charge of an experienced teacher from Piacenza, where the best regulated infant schools are to be found.

AUSTRIA.—OPENING OF THE HUNGARIAN DIET.

In the afternoon of the 11th inst. the Emperor and Empress of Austria, accompanied by the Archdukes Francis, Joseph, and Albert, arrived at Presburg, the capital of Upper Hungary, from Vienna. They were received, on disembarking, by the Archduke Stephen, and about 500 magnates and nobles.

On the 12th, at eleven in the morning, the Hungarian Diet was opened in due form. The Emperor, dressed in the splendid uniform of the Hungarian Hussars, was surrounded by all the magnates of Hungary; and, after an opening speech by Count Aponyi, he endeavoured himself to address a few words to the assembly in the Hungarian language. The Royal propositions, eleven in number, were then laid upon the table, and the Emperor and his suite withdrew. The first is respecting the election of a Palatine, the second relates to military regulations, the third to the rights of voting of the free cities and communes. Paragraph six, relates to the question of landlord and tenant. The most important is paragraph seven, which concerns the total abolition of all custom duties between Hungary and the other Austrian dominions. The propositions altogether produced a favourable effect.

The first proposition is already fulfilled.

Archduke Stephen was proclaimed Palatine of Hungary by acclamation.

The Austrian journals are loud in their rejoicings, and give flowing accounts of the reception of the Emperor. Scarcely, however, had the acclamations hailing the new Palatine ceased, when Kosssuth, the Liberal champion, rose and moved, that the Latin form of the oath, to be taken by the new Palatine, be changed into the Magyar dialect, and the proposition was hailed with deafening applause.

It is stated in a letter from Cracow of the 15th, that the tomb of M. Zajaskowski, President of the Political Criminal Tribunal, who was assassinated on the 4th, has to be guarded night and day by strong detachments of cavalry and infantry, it being reported that the people intended to drag up the body and hang it on a gibbet.

The Government of Vienna has interdicted all the Roman journals from entering the States of Austria.

##### PRUSSIA.

Accounts from Berlin of the 17th instant, state that the Cabinet has been engaged in bringing to an end the long-intended municipal law for those parts of the Prussian dominions into which that institution has not been introduced as yet. The March of Brandenburgh, the province of Saxony and Pomerania, will be principally benefited by this important law.

THE POLISH PROCESS.—BERLIN, Nov. 17th.—This was a solemn day in Court. At one o'clock the President rose, and, addressing the counsel for the Polish defendants, inquired whether they had any further defence to make; the counsel unanimously replied in the negative, upon which the President said, "The proceedings are herewith closed. The day for pronouncing the sentence cannot yet be named." This will probably not take place for a fortnight or three weeks, and the reading will probably occupy two or three days; it will be given in German, and only the tenor will be translated into Polish.

The *Universal Prussian Gazette* contains a Cabinet order, dated November 18, and addressed to the authorities of Neufchâtel. In this order the King ratifies the declaration of neutrality adopted by the Legislative body of Neufchâtel in its sitting of the 29th October, and maintains that neutrality throughout the period of the duration of the civil war.

##### RUSSIA.

Russian intelligence recently received, *vid* Germany, states that the cholera continues prevalent in Moscow, without, however, having yet developed any particularly malignant features. From the 17th of October, the number of cases gradually declined. After the lapse of five days it rose once more. Up to the 25th of October (from the 30th of September), the number of cases amounted to 556, and that of consequent deaths to 167. The intelligence of the last week from the other parts of the Empire visited by the pestilence is equally favourable. The epidemic, throughout, presents few malignant features.

A letter from Warsaw, of October 31, says—"M. de Blawod has just arrived here from Naples. The mission, relative to the religious affairs of Poland, which he was entrusted with at Rome by the Emperor of Russia, is looked on to have failed. The present conduct of the Russian Government, with respect to the Catholic religion in Poland is more and more hostile. The new code declares that there is but a comparatively small number of persons professing it in that country. Any one also may pass from the Catholic worship to the Greco-Russian; but if any passes from the latter to the former, he is liable to be sent for two years to the Caucasus, and afterwards to be shut up in a convent until he repents his fault, and testifies his intention to turn back to his old belief. In addition, from 1848, the Russian law relative to mixed marriages is to be applied to the kingdom of Poland, and all male children are to be brought up in the Greco-Russian religion.

##### SWEDEN.

It is stated, in a letter from Stockholm, of the 14th, that a serious riot had taken place at Götterburg, arising out of a domiciliary visit. All the public lamps were broken, and the Custom House and the house of the chief of the police were entered by the mob and pillaged. Order was at length restored by the intervention of an armed force.

##### WEST INDIES.

The Jamaica Legislative Session was opened on the 19th of October, in a long speech by the Governor, which is generally commented upon in

## SIMPSON'S SUBMERGED PROPELLER.

WHEN the first innovation was made upon the rights of the "ancient wicker fan," by the introduction of the four-vaned blower on the floor of the barn to

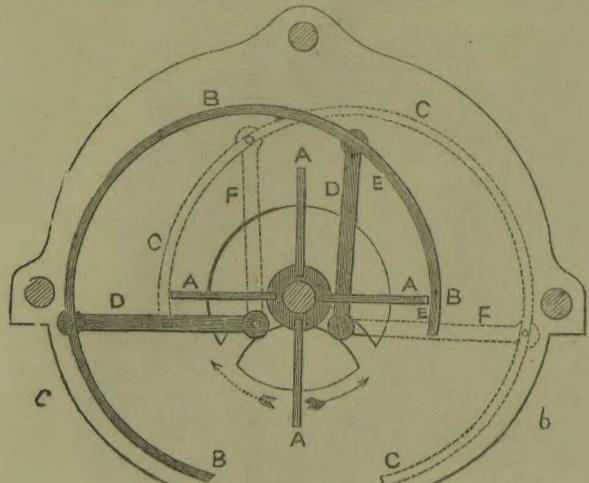


FIG. 1.

create an artificial current of air, and when afterwards that same simple agent was enclosed in the drum of the winnowing machine, where a direction was given to the current by a volute form of casing—simple and cheap in its construction and application—giving out a gentle and diffuse breeze, just sufficient to drive off the chaff and nothing more—it was regarded as a mere apology for the "sturdy old bellows;" but now, after the lapse of upwards of a century,

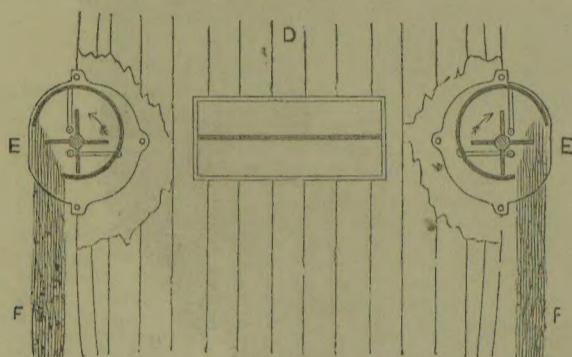


FIG. 2.

we find the whole troop of blowing apparatus, from the forge to the smelting furnace, rapidly retiring before their powerful though diminutive rival, which—for "ambition knows no bounds"—having triumphed in one element, is now seeking to win fresh laurels in another; and that, too, with good chance of success, if we may judge from the results of a trial trip, made by Mr. T. B. Simpson, on Monday week, on board the *Albion*, a steam vessel built and fitted, entirely at his own expense, with his Patent Submerged Propeller, and reported in the *Times* to have acquired a speed of from ten to twelve knots per hour.

This Propeller is, as before remarked, the old blowing machine immersed in water, and acting on that element precisely the same as with air, *i.e.*, collecting

it in the centre, and throwing it off at the circumference of the vanes, from whence it impinges on a segment of a circle, placed so as to form a volute to the centre, and is by that made to leave the opening in a strong current parallel to the side of the vessel; a reference to Fig. 1 will explain this, and also the contrivance for reversing the action. A A A A are four vanes, each one foot in length and eighteen inches broad, made to revolve either way. B B B is a segment of a circle, made of thin metal, and forming the barrel to the drum inside of which the vanes revolve, and which guides the projected water in the direction b or c, by merely changing its position when the vanes are reversed; this is effected by the levers D D, by which the segment is attached to the upper and lower plates of the drum; so that when the motion is reversed, the action of the water against the inside of the segment at E E throws it over to the position shown by the dotted lines C C C, and the levers F F. Fig. 2 is a midship-plan, with the deck broken away to show the position of the propellers E E, and the direction of the current F F. Fig. 3 is a section through midships, showing the elevation of the Propeller and the arrangement for communicating motion from the engine.

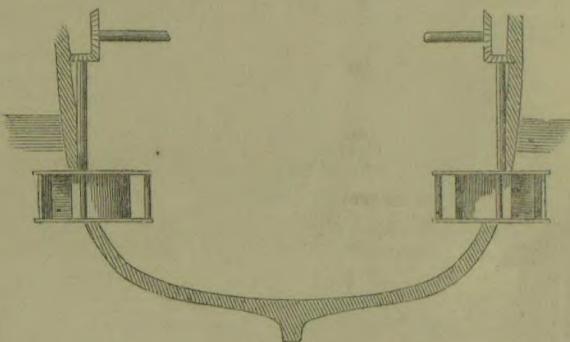


FIG. 3.

Altogether, this is a most important problem; and whether solved or not by the labours of Mr. Simpson, he has entitled himself to a niche in the temple of fame, for the indomitable perseverance and talent he has displayed in endeavouring to carry out a principle which he believes to be true, and which he has spared neither pains nor expense to prove. We heartily wish him success.

ONE of the favourite ideas of the King of Prussia was to enrich his kingdom with an administration of justice free of all expense to the suitors; but, after a careful inquiry into the means of carrying it out, it has been found necessary to abandon it; first, because it would be too heavy a burden to the Budget; and next, because it would increase and encourage the spirit of litigation.

STRANGE PATENTS.—Among the latest lists of patents is to be found one of a very curious nature, and thus described:—"An invention for making paper for the building of houses, bridges, ships, boats, and all sorts of wheel carriages, sedan chairs, tables, and bookcases, either entirely of paper, or wood and iron covered with paper." In the same list there is mentioned a patent for "roasting a great number of joints of meat, fowls, &c., horizontally and vertically," on a mathematical principle.

A MINISTER APPREHENDED AS A DESERTER.—On Sunday, the minister who officiated in the forenoon in Greenhead *quoad sacra* Church, Canning-street, Carlton, was, immediately after the conclusion of the service, apprehended as a deserter by two sergeants of the 71st Regiment. His sable robes presented a striking contrast to the gaudy attire of his companions in arms, and attracted an immense crowd of onlookers. The preacher absented himself from the barracks only on the preceding Monday. He took up his quarters with a highly respectable lady in Charlotte-street, under the assumed name of the Rev. Mr. Bertram. How he got an introduction to the Established Presbytery, so as to get admittance as a preacher into Greenhead Church, does not appear. His real name is Thomas Watkins. His father is a minister of the Gospel in the neighbourhood of London, and our hero was educated to the ministry; but, previous to his being licensed, he enlisted. The Rev. Mr. Bertram is rather an enticing young man, and a very pleasing speaker. Under this assumed name he is said to have produced a favourable impression on the fair portion of the audience. It is, therefore, well it should be known that the Rev. Mr. Bertram, when reduced to private Watkins, is a married man, having his wife in the barracks.

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On Saturday, Mr. Tyrwhitt, the Magistrate of Clerkenwell Court, signed upwards of 500 summonses to enforce payment of the poor-rate due in Clerkenwell!

Captain Cust, of the 8th Hussars, has been re-appointed on the Staff of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, vice Lieutenant the Hon. H. Noel, late 68th Light Infantry.

The *Spires Gazette* of the 14th announces that the Prussian Government has decided upon forming, at the expense of the State, a railroad from Saarbrücken to the frontier of Bavaria, and that the works will be commenced in the next spring.

Mr. Hamilton, the Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries, has resigned his office.

Letters from Hamburg, Berlin, and Frankfort state the Money Market there to be easy, and that even Railway Shares were rising, and in much greater demand.

The proceeds of four robberies, perpetrated lately near the city of Cork amounted to 1d.!

A petition against the return of Mr. Heald, M.P. for Stockport, has, it is said, been prepared, and will be laid before Parliament on an early day.

The cost of the Relief Service last winter in the Naval Department alone amounted to £53,580.

There were no less than four fires in different parts of the metropolis on Saturday night, but in no case attended with serious consequences.

The Marquis of Clanricarde, having terminated the new postal arrangement, has left Paris and arrived in London. We understand that the two deliveries a-day will commence from the 1st Jan. next.

On Sunday morning a sermon was preached at Bayswater Episcopal Chapel, by the Rev. W. Holdsworth, M.A., vicar of the district parish of St. John's, Notting Hill, in aid of the funds of the Royal Humane Society.

Madame Alboni will return to Paris on the 28th inst. She is engaged at the Italian theatre, where she will make her *début* in the opera of *Semiramide*.

The Queen has appointed John George Shaw Lefevre, Esq., to be one of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, in the room of John William Earl of Besborough, deceased.

Her Majesty has been also pleased to appoint the Right Rev. Samuel Wilberforce, D.D., Bishop of Oxford, to be her Majesty's High Almoner, in the room of Dr. Edward Harcourt, Archbishop of York, deceased.

On Tuesday, the Speech of her Majesty, delivered in the House of Lords at two o'clock, was transmitted by telegraph to various towns in England. It was published in Liverpool at four o'clock.

The steam-vessel *Lion* recently appointed to trade between the British Metropolis and the Dutch port of Harlingen, has brought the immense number of 1195 sheep, besides 63 oxen and cows, 14 calves, some packages of poultry, 3300 cheeses, 1632 casks of butter, and a variety of other articles, the production of Holland.

The Duchess d'Aumale landed at Algiers, on the 11th instant.

M. Lepage, Secretary of the Nobility in the States General (France), Secretary to the Presidency of the Legislative and Constituent Assemblies, and Paymaster-General of the Army of Italy, died at Cœu on the 20th inst., in the 79th year of his age.

The Rouen and Havre shares fell on the Paris Bourse on Monday in consequence of a land slip in a high embankment, between Beuzeville and Nointot, to the extent of upwards of 100 yards.

On the 19th instant, a silver pocket communion service and a purse of sovereigns were presented by the parishioners of All Saints and St. Martin, Hereford, to the Rev. Edward Trevelyan Smith, as a mark of respect on his leaving for the district of St. Paul, Warwick.

Considerable amusement was excited in the House of Commons on Tuesday night by the circumstance of Mr. F. O'Connor sitting on the same bench between Lord George Bentinck and Sir Robert Peel.

The *Weser Gazette* of the 17th states that the Boards of Directors of all the railroads in Prussia had communicated to them a Cabinet order, whereby all private dispatches by the electric telegraphs already established, or hereafter to be established, are placed under the control of the State. This control will be exercised by keeping a book at each station, in which is to be inserted the purport of each dispatch sent by telegraph.

The Austrian Vice-Admiral Dandolo died at Venice on the 14th, aged 86.

A meeting of Protectionist members of the House of Commons took place on Tuesday, at Lord Stanley's residence, in St. James's Square. There were present 68 honourable gentlemen.

A clergyman told an Indian he should love his enemies. "Me do love 'em," replied the latter. "What enemies do you love most?"

General Espartero, the Duke of Victoria, is at present the guest of Sir Arthur Aston, of Aston Hall, Cheshire.

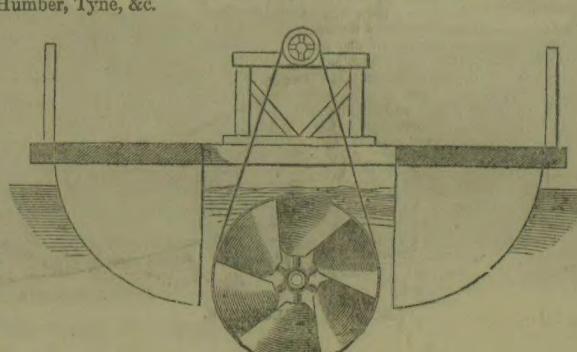
THE TIDAL MILL.

FOR some weeks past, a "queer-looking craft," as Jack would call it, has been moored a little below the Southwark Bridge, on the Borough side, and the attention of the curious and scientific has been considerably excited towards it by the novelty of machinery without any visible motive power, being constantly in operation on its deck. That "craft" is the experimental vessel belonging to the "Tidal Mill Company." It is constructed as shown in the diagram—a section across midships—in two parts; the space between is for the reception of a wheel 7 feet in diameter, with six vanes, each 5 feet 6 inches broad at the periphery, and tapering to 7 inches near the centre: it is like a screw-propeller—is placed at right angles to the current, which gives it motion, the speed of which, it has been calculated, communicates power in the following ratio:—

Tide—miles per hour	..	..	..	2	3	4	5	6
Wheel, 7 feet diameter, working horse power	..	2	3	4	5	6		
Do., 14 do. do. do. ..	8	12	16	20	24			

On the circumference of the wheel is a rim of thin iron, carrying a band which drives a pulley on deck, and to which may be attached apparatus for sawing, or any other purpose.

On the Rhine, Seine, and other Continental rivers, floating Tide-Mills have been most successfully adopted; whilst in this country only two instances occur of their having been attempted, and these, owing to the



## EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The largest vessel that ever entered the port of Alexandria (Egypt)—the *Alfred*, of 1100 tons—arrived there lately from Liverpool, having brought new boilers and machinery for the Viceroy's steam-figate the *Nile*.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has received £5 for legacy-duty and interest from "W. A." The amount will be paid into the receipt of the Exchequer.

A church is about to be erected at Bombay, in memory of the officers and men who perished in Afghanistan.

Four thousand bales of silk have been shipped from Shanghai and Canton for England, this season.

On Friday evening, at a meeting attended by some 5000 or 6000 persons, held in the Town-hall, Birmingham, a Midland District Branch of the English League of Universal Brotherhood was formed.

The Birkenhead Dock will be ready for the timber trade by next June.

Large quantities of champagne, of excellent quality, have been made from the grapes grown near Cincinnati, United States.

A funeral service for the late Count Bresson was performed in the church of Notre Dame de Lorette, in Paris, on Saturday last.

On Friday last, the Tribunal of Correctional Police of Paris sentenced, by default, M. Gudin (late Aide-de-Camp of King Louis Philippe), for cheating at cards, to three years' imprisonment, and 2000 francs fine.

The Board of Ordnance have given directions for the purchase of about 600 acres of land, for the purpose of circumvallating the north side of the present fortifications of Gosport, either by a continued line of rampart, or by detached forts or Martello towers.

In the garden of Mr. G. Hurst, of Bedford, were dug up, a few days since, five sticks of celery, weighing together no less than 45 lbs., the respective weights of each being 7 lbs., 8 lbs., 9 lbs., and two 10 lbs. each.

Dr. Wolff and Lady Georgiana Wolff have kindly offered an asylum to Miss Grover, the daughter of the lamented Captain Grover, in their own house. The Rev. Doctor is residing at his own Vicarage of Isle Brewers, near Langport, Somersetshire.

Verdi's new opera, "Jerusalem," is to be produced at the Opera, Paris, the latter end of this week.

M. Auber is preparing a new work for the Académie Royale de Musique, to be called "L'Enfant Prodige." The words are by M. Scribe.

Major-General W. Napier, Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey, has written to the journals contradicting the report that he had resigned his post as Governor of that island.

The amount of tea exported from China to Great Britain, from the 1st of July to the date of the latest advices, is, of black, 10,794,410 lbs.; and, of green, 904,160 lbs.; making a total of 11,698,570 lbs.

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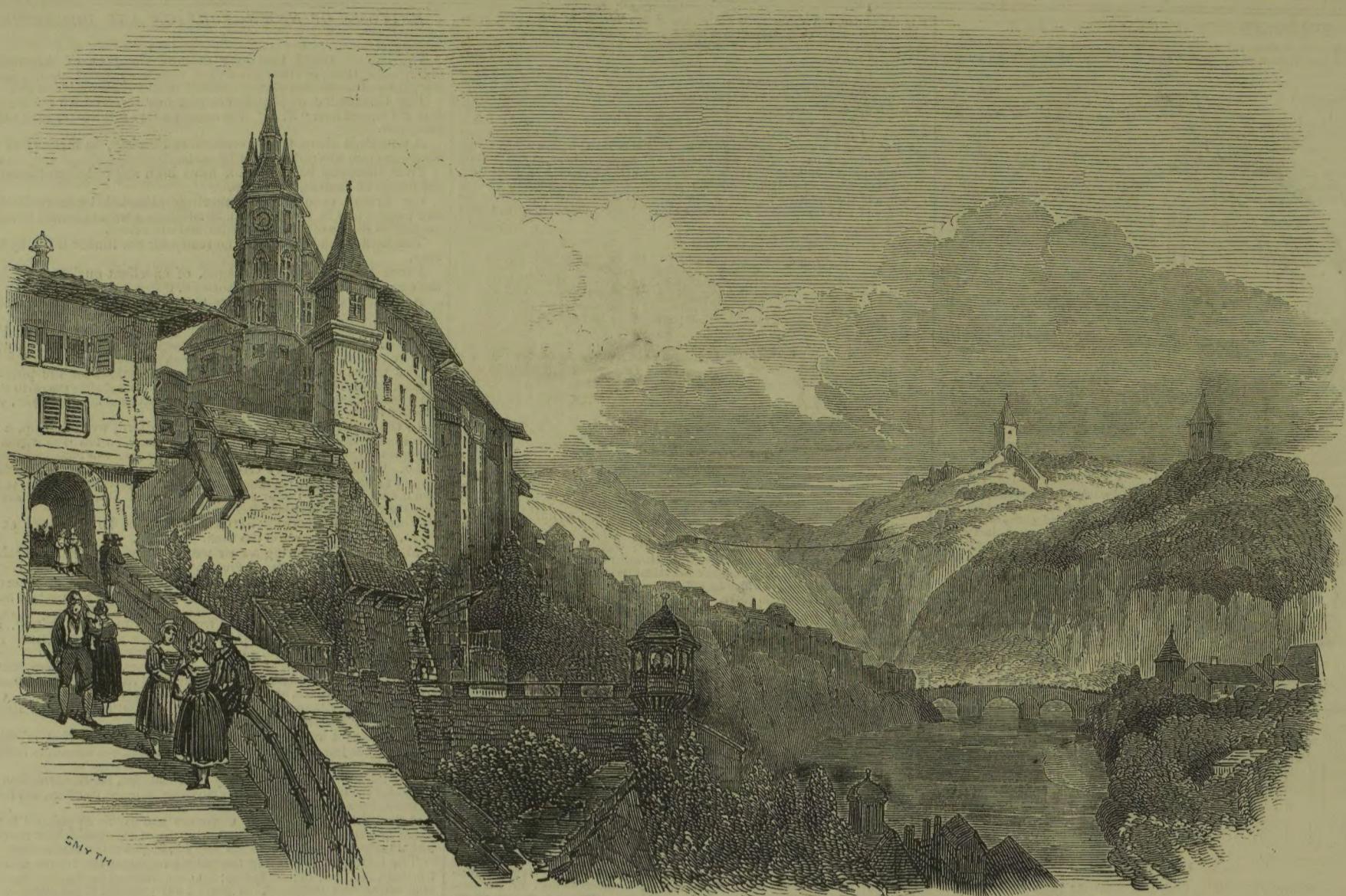
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FRIBOURG.—FROM AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.

## SWITZERLAND.

The civil war progresses slowly. Hostilities tend towards Lucerne, the great stronghold of the Sonderbund. The position of that city and its capacity for defence may be understood from the following description:—On the north, it is commanded by hills from which the city may be cannonaded. On the west it is washed by the Reuss, a deep and rapid river, which forms its best protection; and on the south the city is covered by the lake. It is most vulnerable on the east, where, probably, the attack will be made. There the means of defence are completely deficient. The churchyard wall and a few houses afford a slight protection. Lucerne is completely commanded, both on the east and on the north, by hills easily accessible, and from which a heavy fire may be directed against the town. The men of Lucerne have erected batteries on those heights, but the decisive struggle will most probably take place nearer the city. If the General of the Sonderbund cannot defend the heights he is lost. If he succeed in maintaining himself there, or if he repulse General Dufour, the check experienced at Fribourg will be more than balanced. The frontiers of the Canton, however, have not yet been crossed by the Federal troops, and the General-in-Chief was determined not to attack the city until he had assembled his entire force, consisting of 70,000 men, with 180 pieces of artillery.

Letters from Berne state that all the public establishments of Fribourg, the school of the Jesuits, and the convents, had been converted into barracks for the accommodation of the troops of the fourteen battalions, who took possession of the city. A provisional Government, elected by the people, was installed on the 15th, previous to the arrival of federal commissioners. Colonel Maillardoz, Commander-in-Chief of the Fribourg troops, and most of the members of the last Council of State, had absconded. General Dufour arrived at Berne on the 15th and departed on the following morning at six o'clock, for Argau, where his presence was necessary to commence the military operations against Lucerne. Colonel Ochsenbein also returned to Berne on the 15th, with the division of reserve, and marched on the next day to Summiswald and Langenthal. The brigade of Frei, 3,500 strong, belonging to the division of General Burkhardt, passed

through Berne in the afternoon of the 16th, proceeding in the direction of Lucerne.

The provisional Government of Fribourg was composed of Liberals, amongst whom were Messrs. Julien Schaller, Wicky, Pitet, Chatonney, Robadey, &c.

On reaching Fribourg, in the evening of the 15th, the federal representatives, Messrs. Stockmar, Reinert, and Grivaz had a long conference with Colonel Rilliet, who commands the division of occupation. The greatest disorder and anarchy prevailed in the Canton wherever there were no federal troops. The disarmament of the Landsturm was far from being complete, and in certain districts that measure was likely to present serious difficulties. The former Government had prepared a proclamation, giving an account of its reasons for surrendering Fribourg, but that document not being signed by any of its members, no printer would take upon himself to publish it. The Government stated that it was determined on every sacrifice rather than yield, if those to whom it had confided the defence of the country had not declared all resistance impossible. The effective force of the federal army amounted to 94,000 men, and consisted of 102 battalions of infantry, 45 companies of carabiniers, 27 companies of cavalry, 53 batteries of artillery (212 pieces), 6 companies of sappers, and 6 companies of pontoniers.

The *Berne Gazette* of the 18th inst. contains the following, under date Fribourg, 16th:—

"In the German districts of the Canton, the Landsturm have again assembled to recommence hostilities, particularly near Überstorf. The Landsturm is greatly irritated against the last Government, which it accuses of treachery. The Radicals, who constitute but one-tenth of the population of Fribourg, are now masters of the city. A clergyman, who fired upon the federal troops, was taken prisoner and immediately shot. Two soldiers of Vaud having been stabbed in their beds, Colonel Rilliet intended to declare the place in a state of siege." All strangers had been expelled, together with the Jesuits, the Ligorians, and the members of the Congregation of Mary.

The *Journal des Débats* gives lamentable details of the pillage of private houses,

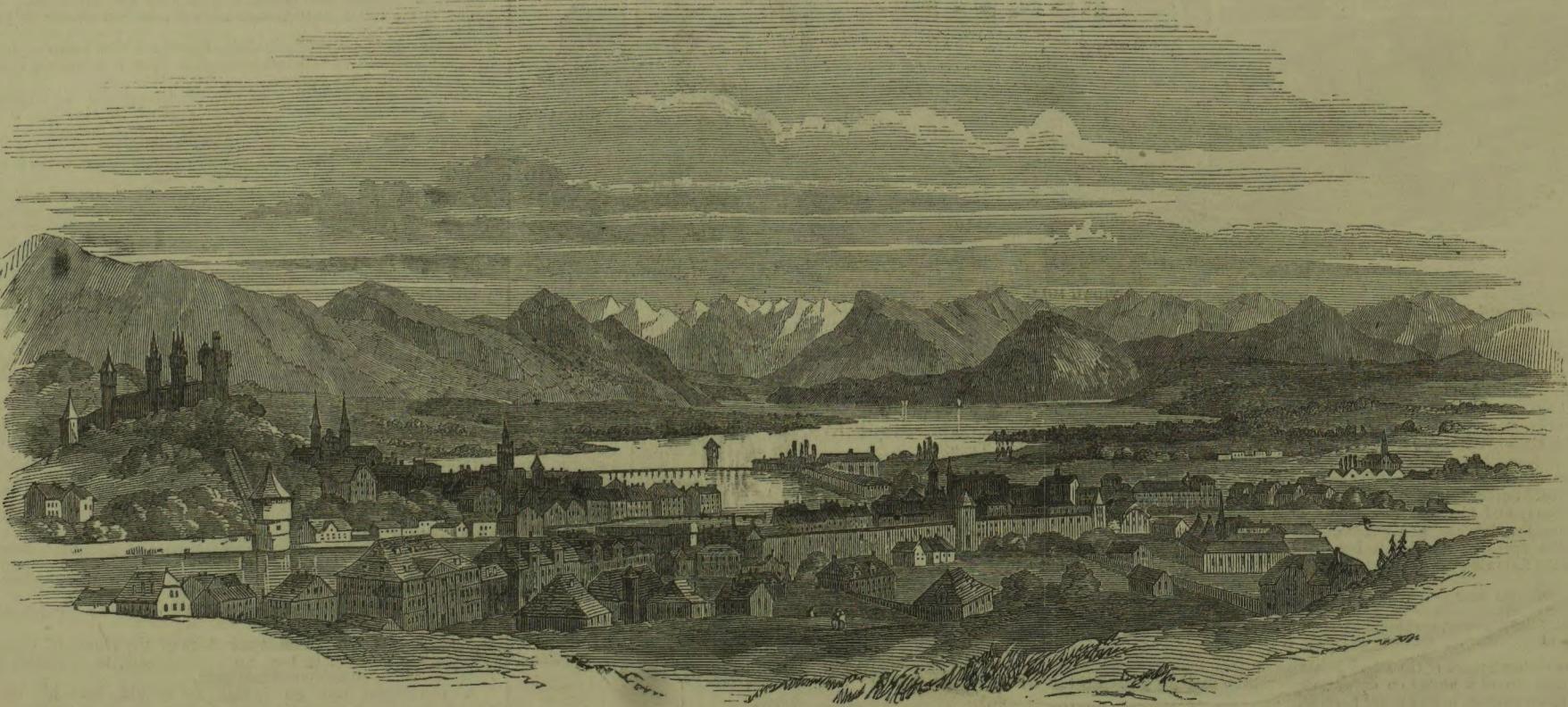
churches, &c., &c., and the robbery of the silver sacred vessels and utensils of the latter. All the *attachés* of the French legation left Berne for Bâle on the 7th inst., and M. Bois-le-Comte (the French Minister) himself was to depart for that city in the evening. The motive of the determination adopted by the French Minister, was the refusal of a passport he had demanded for his Second Secretary, M. de Banville, whom he intended to send to Lucerne for the protection of French interests.

Advices from Berne to the 20th, state that the operations against Lucerne had commenced, and that several districts of that Canton adjoining Argau had been occupied by the Federal Troops. A courier had reached Berne the night before, announcing that the men of Uri, to the number of 1500, reinforced by 2000 Valaisians, had advanced on the 17th towards Airolo, in the Canton of Ticino and, after a sanguinary engagement, succeeded in taking possession of that town. The battalion of Cazzellini, and a company of Carabiniers, who formed its garrison, retreated on Faido, and probably on Bellinzona, where Colonel Luvini was concentrating his forces.

## THE ENGRAVINGS.

The first Illustration is from a sketch recently taken by Mr. Charles Vacher. It shows the interior of Fribourg, from the street or rather steps, leading from the Grande Place of the upper, down to the lower, Town. From this point you obtain the best notion of the peculiar situation of Fribourg, with the river Saane at the bottom, and a few of the old watch-towers on the distant hills.

The second of our Illustrations is a Panoramic View of Lucerne, environed with beautiful scenery, on the borders of the finest and most interesting of the Swiss lakes, between the giants Pilatus and Rigi, and in sight of the snowy Alps o Schwytz and Engelberg. The town is still surrounded by a very picturesque circle of feudal watch-towers, and is walled in on the land side: but its chief peculiarity is the number and length of its bridges.



PANORAMA OF LUCERNE.

## OPENING OF THE PARIS AND BOULOGNE RAILWAY.

(From our own Correspondent.)



PUBLIC opening of the Railroad from Abbeville to Neufchâtel took place on Monday last. There was no ceremonial upon the occasion; but some of the Directors and their friends visited the line several times last week. I have been over the whole of the line, and have had an opportunity of hearing the opinion of practical men in favour of its general condition. You are aware that Neufchâtel is about seven miles from Boulogne; and it was hoped that the whole line, from Paris to Boulogne, would have been finished by the commencement of the next year. This,

however, is impossible, notwithstanding the great exertions used by those who have the management of the works. The delay is caused by the difficulties attendant on the completion of a tunnel through the forest of Hardelot. This tunnel promises to afford a magnificent specimen of English industry and genius. Although only about 185 metres, or 200 English yards, in length, this work has required very great attention for some time past. The territory, composed principally of light sand, presents what are popularly called "engineering difficulties" of the most formidable description; but, under the able superintendence of Mr. Mackenzie, very great progress has been made with the labour. I only speak the opinion of all scientific men who have seen it, when I pronounce it to be a work requiring no ordinary care, skill, and perseverance. The drawings made of the progress of the works, prove this. They show that great taste has been displayed, in addition to the other requisites.

I need hardly tell you that the greatest anxiety exists for the completion of the line to Boulogne, and this desire has induced rather too eager and sanguine an expectation as to the time when such a desirable consummation can be effected. Such are the difficulties connected with the tunnel, that, from all I can learn, those who have the best means of judging, do not think it can be finished before April or May. The completion of this work alone causes the delay; for the rails have been nearly laid down as far as Boulogne itself, where the station is nearly completed. I passed over the line from Boulogne to the tunnel a few mornings ago, on my way to the station at Neufchâtel, previous to a visit to the line between Abbeville and Paris. The exceptions to which I allude comprise a very small space of ground; and if the tunnel were finished, the works might be completed, perhaps, in a week. I may mention that when Mr. Blount, accompanied by the Government engineer, tried the line on the part of the Directors, the locomotive sometimes went at the speed of about forty miles an hour.

It will no doubt be interesting to English travellers to know that, from the present period, there will be three trains a day from Neufchâtel to Paris—viz., at eight in the morning, a quarter to three in the afternoon, and nine in the evening. From Paris to Neufchâtel the trains are appointed to start at eight in the morning, and one and seven in the afternoon. Omnibuses have been appointed to take passengers from Boulogne to the Neufchâtel station, for which the charge is two francs. The French are very fond of odd money, and of course have adopted the principle in this instance. Thus, the charge for the first class from Boulogne to Abbeville will be 25f. 65c.; second class ditto, 20f. 5c. (the centime being the hundredth part of the franc); third class ditto, 14f. 90c. In English money, the fare for the first class is about a pound sterling.

The chief stations between Neufchâtel and Abbeville are Etaples, Rue, and Noyelle. The distance from Abbeville to Boulogne is reckoned at forty kilometres, or twenty leagues. It is about fifty English miles.

At Etaples a handsome bridge has been erected, and, from its peculiar construction, all sorts of vague reports have been at times circulated. Only last week a story was generally believed at Boulogne that it had fallen in, with several carriages, to the destruction of several of the Directors. The truth is, that the bridge is as beautiful in appearance as it is solid in construction. It has been tested with immense weights during the last fortnight, and stood the test most satisfactorily. This fine structure is composed of fifteen arches, and is upwards of 280 metres in length. (A metre is a third more than an English yard.) The injury done by the accident which actually occurred has been entirely repaired.

The Rue station is reached from Etaples by the railroad in about twenty minutes. Rue dates from a very early period, and was formerly a town of some importance. The chief trade is in dyeing, which is carried on to some extent. The Church, as we have already stated, is a very ancient one, and presents some points of high interest to the artist and antiquary. Hitherto, Rue has been but little known; but the opening of the Railway will, no doubt, attract attention to

it. A large sum has been expended by the French Government on the Church, and it is intended to place it in a complete state of restoration. The best preserved and finer portions of this edifice are of the thirteenth and fourteenth cen-

## PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS.—No. II.

MR. R. A. S. ADAIR, M.P.

MR. ROBERT ALEXANDER SHAFTO ADAIR is the new member for the borough of Cambridge. He is the eldest son of Sir Robert Shafto Adair, of Flixton Hall, Norfolk. His brother, Mr. Hugh Edward Adair, sits for Ipswich. Mr. Shafto Adair contested East Suffolk in 1841 and 1842, but without success: like the Mover of the Address, he is a new member. His opinions ally him to the Liberal party: he is opposed to the endowment of the Catholic clergy.



MR. SHAFTO ADAIR, M.P. FOR CAMBRIDGE.

Mr. Adair seconded the Address in the House of Commons. Neither the Mover nor the Seconder have much opportunity for display. From the prescribed character of the speeches they have to deliver, it is scarcely possible to fail, and so far, it is a favourable occasion for a *début* on the political stage; but the same cause represses anything like originality or boldness of treatment, and a very striking speech either in moving or seconding the Address, is scarcely on record.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY.—A circular has been issued from Downing-street, instructing the authorities in the Colonies to address the Roman Catholic Prelates in such Colonies by the title to which their rank in their own church may appear to give them a just claim, officially styling them "your Grace" or "your Lordship," as the case may be. As, however, Parliament, in the Charitable Bequests Act, on which this instruction is founded, has, for obvious reasons, not sanctioned this assumption by the Prelates of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland or titles derived from the sees which they hold, a similar rule is to be observed in the Colonies, so that the Roman Catholic Prelate in New South Wales will merely be addressed as the Most Reverend Archbishop Polding, and in Van Diemen's Land as the Right Reverend Bishop Wilson.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury have caused Mr. Parker, one of their Lordships' secretaries, to transmit to the Commissioners of Customs, for their information and the guidance of the several officers and departments under their control, an Order in Council constituting the town and port of Portland, in the district of Melbourne, New South Wales, to be a free warehousing port.

STRANGE PARCEL.—On Saturday last, one of the porters at the Castle Station of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway discovered, in the carriage of a train just arrived from the north, a child about four years old, labelled "To be left till called for." The child was removed to the workhouse. In the evening, however, a man, who turned out to be the father, made inquiries respecting it; he was a coachmaker on tramp, and, hearing, while at Kendal, of the probability of meeting with work at Lancaster, he despatched the child thither per railway, while he performed the journey on foot.

SHOCK OF AN EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH WALES.—On Saturday accounts were received from Llandaff, Cardiff, Newport, Risca, and other towns in South Wales, of two very violent shocks of earthquake being experienced in that part of the Principality. The buildings were sensibly shaken, and in numerous instances the windows rattled to an alarming extent. At Risca, the colliers ran from their work in a painful state of excitement. At Llandaff also the noise and concussion were considerable.

FLATTERING MARKS OF DISTINCTION.—The Emperor of Brazil, through the Marquis Lisbos, Ambassador, has communicated his high satisfaction at the conduct of the officers superintending the repairs of the Constituição, at this yard, accompanied with Orders of Knighthood to Sir John West; the admiral superintendent, Sir S. Pym; W. Edye, Esq., master shipwright; Thomas Spiller, Esq., first assistant; Mr. Fincham, foreman of shipwrights; and Mr. Darling, foreman of caulkers. We understand the several diplomas have been returned to his Excellency, the rules of our service not admitting civilians to receive such foreign distinctions.—*Plymouth Times*.

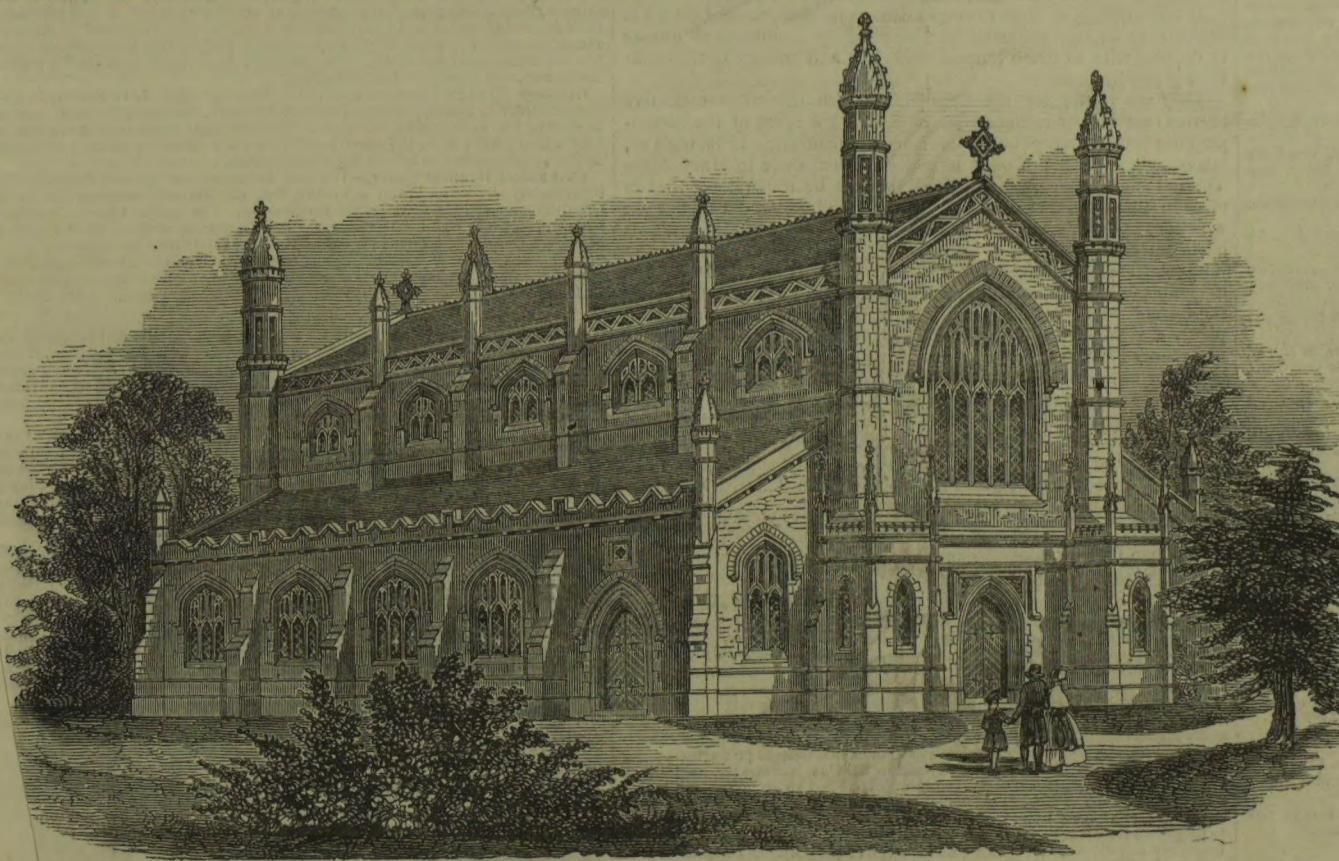
## KENTISH TOWN NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

THE erection of this edifice, for the Nonconformists resident in Kentish Town and its neighbourhood, has been required by the rapidly-increasing population of the district. The first stone of the building was laid on Monday, by Thomas Spalding, Esq., of Kentish Town, in the presence of several Ministers, and the numerous friends interested in the good work; being the church and congregation under the pastoral care of the Rev. W. Forster, who addressed the assembled company on Monday, previous to the ceremony of laying the stone; and at its close, an appropriate address was delivered by the Rev. John Burnet, of Camberwell.

The site of the new edifice is a plot of ground opposite Bartholomew-place. It has been designed by Messrs. Hodge and Butler, architects, Beaufort-buildings, Strand. The plan is a parallelogram, 100 feet by 60 feet; divided into nave and aisles, vestries, and lobbies; and will accommodate seven hundred persons, in carved oak pews, with reclining backs. There will, also, be an organ-gallery, with sittings for two hundred children and twenty choristers, approached by circular fire-proof stairs.

The style selected by the architects is that of the fifteenth century, with great attention to detail and effect. The nave and aisles, in plan, are divided by five octagonal piers and lofty arches, which carry the clerestory walls, supporting an elegant open oak roof, peculiar to the style. The windows are richly tracered; they include a splendid wheel window, in the east end, fifteen feet in diameter. The whole will be filled with stained glass, of elegant design, by Chance, Brothers, of Birmingham.

The exterior will be of Bath-stone, in random courses, with Bath-stone dressings. The contract has been taken by Mr. Trego, of Coleman-street, who, we understand, is executing his work very much to the satisfaction of the Building Committee; so as to render ample justice to the architects' highly meritorious design.



NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT KENTISH TOWN.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, November 28.—First Sunday in Advent.

MONDAY, 29.—The Moon enters her last quarter at 4h. 22m. p.m.

TUESDAY, 30.—St. Andrew.—Venus rises at 3h. 19m. a.m., near the E. by S. point of the horizon; and Saturn sets at 11h. 7m. p.m.

WEDNESDAY, December 1.—Mercury rises at 6h. 33m. a.m., midway between the E.S.E. and the S.E. by E. points of the horizon.

THURSDAY, 2.—Mars sets at 4h. 21m. a.m.; and Jupiter rises at 6h. 36m. p.m.

FRIDAY, 3.—The Moon is near, and to the West of, the planet Venus.

SATURDAY, 4.—The Moon is near, and to the East of, the planet Venus.

The planet Mercury is favourably situated for observation throughout the week, and may be seen with the naked eye before sunrise. The planets Mars and Saturn are nearly stationary among the stars during this week.

## TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE,

FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 4.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
5 50	6 15	6 40	7 17	7 35	8 0	8 40

\* \* There will be no high tide during the afternoon of Saturday.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Melpomene."—Boys are admitted into the Charter-house School between the ages of 10 and 14 years, and are lodged, boarded, and educated, free of expense; and, when properly qualified, are sent to the University, where twenty-nine exhibitions of the value of £80 per annum are provided. The Governors present to the foundation in rotation.

"D. D."—The records of the ascents of Mont Blanc are to be found at Chamouny. In the same year that Mr. Audouin ascended, (1827), Messrs. Fellows and Hawes, also, went up. With respect to lady ascents—in 1838, a Frenchwoman reached the summit; and in 1840, a Mademoiselle Dangereille reached the top.

"A Subscriber."—The exception in the New Post-office Arrangements as to persons holding official appointments, undoubtedly, applies as well to the sending as to the receiving of letters free. Wire-gauze window-blinds will prevent persons seeing into a room from without, and not obstruct the view from within.

"W. J. T." near Wellington, is thanked for the Engravings and Descriptions. We should, however, observe that letter-head engravings are not desirable for illustrations in our Journal: the authorities should be Original Sketches.

"Capt. G. D." is thanked; but we had not room.

"Z."—Can this or any other Subscriber favour us with the details of the late Sale of the celebrated "Revolution House" at Whittington, Derby?

"Ein Deutscher Student."—Schneider's "German Dictionary," and Lebahn's "German in One Volume."

"C. R. Richardson."—The papers have been regularly forwarded.

"An Old War Officer" may expect soon to receive his "Peninsular Medal."

"A. D." Winchester, is thanked; but the Sketch was not sufficiently "Etruscan" for our Artist.

"T. B." Great Hermitage-street.—As you have not duly presented the Bill for payment, you cannot recover against the drawer.

"An Old Subscriber" will find an outline of the Swiss War in No. 288 of our Journal. Our Correspondent is thanked for the hint.

"Juvenis."—Begin with Valpy's "Greek Grammar."

"Mostyn." Carmarthen, had better consult the Railway Share List, or a Broker; we cannot advise him further.

"A. L."—Address Messrs. Brett and Little, Furnival's Inn.

"L. M. N." should require the stamped receipt.

"J. M. A., jun." Matlock.—The Bible can only be reprinted, without notes, by persons duly licensed.

"Mac's" offer is declined. The London and Westminster Bank.

"An Acrostic" will not suit.

"W. M." Finsbury.—Ineligible.

"C. N." Naples, is thanked for the Sketches; but the subject is not of a class suitable for illustration. The Sketches, which are clever, may, however, prove useful.

"T. R."—Roberts's "Domestic Brewer," last edition.

"A Correspondent" is thanked for the German Song.

"G. A. H. D." Charlotte-street.—At the British Museum is a fac-simile of a copy of Magna Charta, which was taken at the time of the grant being made.

"W. V. B." will find an excellent account of the Pianoforte in the "Penny Cyclopaedia."

"E. H. D." Paris.—Declined.

"A Subscriber."—Newspapers sent to the Colonies by private ships must be posted within seven days from the date of publication.

"C. W." St. Lucia.—The Daguerreotype shall be searched for.

"Forick."—The beautiful expression, "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," is not printed in "Sterne's Sentimental Journey" as a quotation.

"W. H." Kidderminster, is thanked for his obliging offer; but we have not been able to avail ourselves of the favour.

"E. M. S." St. James's.—We have not room.

"Alpha."—All newspapers to foreign countries must be posted within seven days from the date of publication.

"Capt. E." is thanked; though we could not carry out his suggestion.

"A Correspondent" has called our attention to Mr. Thomas Steele's revived agitation of his plan for erecting a national monument to Newton, by purchasing the philosopher's house and observatory, in St. Martin's street, Leicester-square; and building over them a magnificent dome, just as the cupola of the great Church of Assisi has been thrown over the primitive Chapel of St. Francis.

"J. M."—The President steam-ship was launched on Monday, Dec. 9, 1839.

"C. R. L." should obtain the interest of a Member of Parliament. The reference in question will be serviceable.

"A. B. C."—Sir William Magnay, Bart., was elected Alderman of Vintner Ward in 1838, and served as Sheriff in 1841-42, in the mayoralty of Sir John Pirie. It is not necessary to be the Sheriff before being elected Alderman. The annual allowance of a Lord Mayor is about £8000.

"An Admirer of Kenny Meadows." Liverpool, will find the series of "Heads of the Month" complete in the "Illustrated London Almanack" for 1848.

"Castab" must excuse our declining to publish the anonym of second-rate authors.

"E. K."—Only by Act of Parliament.

"J. P. H."—Madame Vuardo Garcia will, it is stated, sing at the Royal Italian Opera-House, Covent-Garden, next season.

"H. J. S." Pimlico, should apply to a police magistrate of the district.

"J. W." Islington.—Declined.

"Schoolboy."—A copper wire.

"Titules."—There have been various theories with respect to the nature of Comets, but none of them are satisfactory. Stars have been seen through their nuclei.

"S. N. D."—By "esoteric" is meant any species of allusion or description which can only be well understood by a certain clique of persons. Perhaps, in its broadest sense, the word "technical" comes nearest to it in meaning; but this does not altogether define it. In every family you will find a number of "esoteric" words, used amongst the various members; which, although expressive and forcible to them, cannot be appreciated out of their circle. Every profession or trade has its "esoteric" connoisseurs. If you meet a party of persons, laughing loudly at what you can see no humour in, it is charitable to suppose that their jokes are "esoteric"; that they connect various words and allusions with circumstances in their own minds, which render droll what would otherwise be dull or unintelligible. It is one of the most useful of modern words.

"A Subscriber from No. 1."—The cost of obtaining a Grant of Arms is seventy-five guineas.

"W. H."—The first daughter of the Duke of Sutherland who married was Lady Blantyre. The Duchess of Argyll was married in the following year, 1844. Her husband, the Duke, succeeded his father, 26th April, 1847.

"W. G." an Old Subscriber" would of course be obliged, if he accepted the commission in the Wiltshire Militia, to obey his superior officers.

"Sigma."—We believe the party using the Arms, and not paying the tax, is liable to a fine.

"Ignoramus."—If the arms be duly registered at the Heralds' Office, an application to the Officer in Waiting at that Institution will obtain a correct copy, at a very trifling cost.

"R. W." will find a Memoir of the Rev. Thomas Froggatt Dibdin, D.D., in this week's Obituary.

"J. B. W."—A person, changing his name, may either take the new one in lieu of, or an addition to, his patronymic. The will under which the change is effected, generally fixes whether the testator's name is to be taken alone, or additional.

"A Subscriber."—The Registers to which our Correspondent refers are local. A "Chief wavy" in Heraldry does not denote illegitimacy.

"Bartholomew."—An English subject, resident in Bruges, could not be arrested there for debts contracted in England. The Isle of Man has some special privileges.

"An Old Subscriber."—We quite concur in the opinions expressed; but other measures are necessary besides those of police.

"An Old Subscriber," Davlish.—Schiller is pronounced Shiller. We have answered the other question before. Divi-divi is an article used in tanning, instead of oak bark.

"Anything or Nothing" should apply to a publisher.

"Enquirer."—We cannot advise as to Loan Societies.

"Omega."—See the Act of Parliament.

"J. B. B." Brighton, suggests that, were the initial letter of the name of the Port to which Lighthouse belongs plainly shown in tamps, it might prevent many awful mistakes at sea.

"E. W. W."—It is understood that the Bishop of Manchester will not be consecrated until after the trial.

"J. D." Deal, is thanked.

"E. W. W."—See the process for preparing Chloroform, in our present Number.

"Subscriber."—Wheowell's Elementary Treatise on Mechanics.

"J. D. C."—Is our Correspondent correct in the name of the Charity?

"Goosequill," Regent's Park, will find some practical instructions in Etching in the "Penny Cyclopaedia." We do not remember any recent English work on Etching.

"L. M." Russell-square."—The Royal Mint is shown to the public who may be fortunate enough to receive orders to view the same from a principal officer.

"F. H." City.—Apply to a Solicitor.

"Anaximander" will find an excellent account of the Electric Clock and Telegraph in the "Companion to the Almanac for 1848," just published.

"Y. Z." Greenwich.—The freedom must be taken up within a year.

## BOOKS RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.

Art of Blazon.—Painsey's Ladies' Repository.—Answer to Lord G. Benwick, by Plain Facts.—Hints to the Sick, the Lame, and the Lazy.—Jane Eyre. 3 Vols.—The Convict. 3 Vols.—Post-office London Directory for 1848.—Murphy's Weather Almanack.

\* \* With every Number of this day's ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, is published, GRATIS, a SUPPLEMENT, containing a full Report of the Parliamentary Proceedings of the Week.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1847.

## THE WEATHER.

THE weather during the past week has been unsettled, the sky has been a good deal clouded, the air has been misty or foggy, and nearly saturated with moisture. The wind has been generally light, and there have been considerable changes of temperature.

The following are some particulars of each day.

Friday, the sky was mostly free from cloud throughout the day, but after 11h. a.m. the atmosphere became misty, and continued so afterwards; the direction of the wind was S.S.W.; the morning was very cold, the thermometer reading being as low as 25°, and the reading did not reach 32° till 11h. a.m., at which point it continued till afternoon; at 1h. p.m. it was 33°, at 2h. p.m. it was 36°, and it did not rise above 36° throughout the day; the average temperature of the day was 30½°. This day was the coldest since March 11. Saturday there was a fog all day, and generally very dense; the air was in a calm state; the average temperature of the day was 33°. Sunday, the sky was covered by cloud till the evening, and partially clear afterwards; the air was generally in a calm state, and the atmosphere was misty; some rain fell after noon; the day was mild, its average temperature was 41°. Monday the sky was nearly cloudless and the day was fine till the evening, at which time it became covered by cloud, and rain was falling in the evening; there were gentle airs from the W.N.W., and the average temperature of the day was 43°. Tuesday the sky was covered by cloud till the evening, and rain was falling from 10h. a.m. till 3h. p.m.; the temperature during the morning was high, but it became low at night; the average for the day was 47½°. Wednesday the sky was mostly free from cloud, and the day was fine; its average temperature was 45½°, and that for the six preceding days was 40°.

The extreme thermometrical readings for each day were:—

Friday,	Nov. 19	the highest during the day was 36° deg., and the lowest was 24° deg.
Saturday,	Nov. 20	..... 40° ..... 25°
Sunday,	Nov. 21	..... 43° ..... 39°
Monday,	Nov. 22	..... 47° ..... 38°
Tuesday,	Nov. 23	..... 56° ..... 39°
Wednesday,	Nov. 24	..... 54° ..... 36°
Blackheath, Thursday,	Nov. 25	..... 51° ..... 36°

J. G.

## CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &amp;c.

## OXFORD.

Nov. 23.

The Ashmolean Society held its second meeting for the term on Monday evening. The Rev. R. Gresswell in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, several presents to the society were announced.

On the table was placed an earthen vessel, found on making a well in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, in this city, at the bottom of a stone wall, the remains of the foundation of Oxfen-dale, at the depth of about eighteen feet; presented by John Richard Carr; the vessel was probably used as a watering pot.

Also a curious substance, apparently of iron and sand, from Norfolk, presented by Mr. Duncan.

Professor Powell exhibited some diagrams to illustrate his observations on "Analysis and Synthesis of Light." What was so fully made out by Newton in its general features has yet been left to be followed out in many of its details. Colour and refrangibility were essentially connected by Newton, only in the sense that colour marks a particular position in the spectrum. The sensation of colour produced by a particular ray is wholly dependent on physiological causes, and varies with different individuals, and under different conditions. Hence, the true meaning of Newton is not at variance with the experiments of Sir David Brewster. According to that philosopher's experiments, the analysis of light by absorption gives rays of a certain refrangibility with entirely different colours. His results have been directly controverted by Mr. Airy; but the conditions of the two experiments are essentially different, the latter viewing the spectrum thrown on a screen, the former receiving it directly on the eye, through a coloured medium; but in this case the eye receives at the same time much extraneous light coloured by the medium which mixes with the other, and must interfere with the effect. Newton conceived that the spectrum would be reduced to a number of distinct coloured spaces, separated by intervals, if the aperture, or origin of light, were made small enough; this he never fully verified.

Mr. Rowell exhibited three drawings to illustrate the appearance of the aurora of October 24, as

## COURT AND HAUT TON.

## THE COURT AT WINDSOR.

On Saturday, his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, attended by the Hon. Captain Gordon, rode to the covers between Bishopsgate and the Norfolk Farm. His Royal Highness returned to the Castle at two o'clock. The afternoon being damp and foggy, her Majesty and the Prince did not leave the Castle again.

Sunday afternoon the bands of both regiments were in attendance on the terrace, and her Majesty and the Prince Consort, with the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice Maud, walked for some time on the Eastern Terrace, attended by the Marchioness of Douro, Lord Alfred Paget, the Earl of Listowel, and the other Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court. After promenading several times along the terrace, her Majesty and the Royal Family, with their attendants, descended the grand flight of steps into the parterre, from whence they passed through the orangery into the Home Park, and along the path leading towards Adelaide Lodge; but a dense fog, with symptoms of rain, coming on, they returned to the Castle, just as the bands had concluded the National Anthem, and the public were leaving the parterre. Whilst her Majesty was out walking with the Prince and the Royal children, Lord John Russell arrived at the Castle, and was honoured with an invitation to the Royal table this evening. This day being the seventh anniversary of the birth of the Princess Royal, the bells of the Churches were rung during the morning in celebration of the event, and Royal salutes were fired at Fort Belvidere, near Virginia Water, and from the Corporation ordnance in the Bachelors' Acre. A large number of costly presents were received at the Castle from the various members of the Royal Family, to be presented to the Princess Royal on her birthday.

The Queen held a Court and Privy Council, at one o'clock on Monday, at Windsor Castle. The Council was attended by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord John Russell, Sir George Grey, Viscount Palmerston, Earl Grey, the Earl of Auckland, Sir John Hobhouse, Viscount Morpeth, Earl Spencer, Lord Chamberlain, and the Duke of Norfolk.

At the Council, Mr. Richard More O'Ferrall was, by command of the Queen, introduced, and was sworn of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. The right hon. gentleman took his seat at the Board.

The Queen's Speech, which was delivered in Parliament on Tuesday, was arranged and agreed upon.

A Charter of Incorporation was granted to Wakefield. The Hon. William Bathurst was the Clerk of the Council in Waiting.

At the Court, the Marquis of Normanby, her Majesty's Ambassador to his Majesty the King of the French, was presented to the Queen at an audience, by Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B., her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

After the Privy Council, a *déjeuner* was served in the Castle to all the noblemen and gentlemen present at the Council, who took their departure at a quarter before three o'clock.

The Royal dinner party at the Castle included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Lady in Waiting of the Duchess of Kent, the Baroness de Speth, and Sir George Couper.

## DEPARTURE OF THE COURT FOR OSBORNE.

The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, and the Princess Helene, left the Castle at a quarter past nine o'clock on Tuesday morning for her Majesty's marine residence, Osborne, Isle of Wight.

The Royal suite consisted of the Marchioness of Douro, Lady in Waiting, a Maid of Honour in Waiting, Col. the Hon. C. B. Phipps, Major-General Bowles, Lord Alfred Paget, and Capt. the Hon. A. H. Gordon.

The august party occupied four carriages and four, and was escorted by a detachment of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, commanded by the Hon. Lewis O. Grant.

Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by the Prince Consort and a numerous suite, arrived in the Royal Clarence Victualling Establishment, Portsmouth, by special train, at about half-past twelve o'clock. A guard of honour of the Royal Marine Corps was drawn up on the left of the point of arrival, to pay the usual tribute to the Sovereign's presence; and all the ships of war under the command of Admiral Ogle dressed ship and manned yards.

On the passage through Spithead, the platform guns were fired, as also at Monckton Fort; and Royal salutes were also fired by the 84-gun ship *Asia*, and the troop ship *Belleisle*.

The Royal yacht entered the harbour of Cowes about half-past one, when the Royal Yacht Squadron battery, and the guns of Cowes Castle, thundered forth their fiery welcome, and the Royal *corvette* landed at the Trinity pier in a few moments afterwards, and left for the new palace at Osborne in a *char-a-banc* and three carriages and pairs. On entering the new marine domain, the Royal standard was instantly hoisted from the summit of the great tower.

Her Majesty looked exceedingly well and pleased, as did his Royal Highness Prince Albert and the Royal Family. Her Majesty wore a black silk dress, trimmed with cape; black velvet bonnet, and a Scotch small check-pattern woollen shawl, black and white. Prince Albert wore a military cloak.

On Wednesday morning her Majesty and Prince Albert took their usual early walk. The Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, went in a carriage to the sea beach during the forenoon. The Earl Spencer, Lord Chamberlain, arrived at Osborne from town, and had an audience of the Queen. The stay of the Court at the Isle of Wight is expected to exceed a week.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, attended by Major Stephens, left town on Wednesday, to honour Mr. Sloane Stanley with a visit at his seat, Paulton, Hants. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester in the course of the day at Gloucester House.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent will remain at Frogmore House during her Majesty's sojourn in the Isle of Wight.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Normanby left Paris on Saturday, for London. His Excellency's absence will extend to the middle of December, in order to take his seat in the New Parliament. Lord William Hervey remains Charge d'Affaires during the absence of Lord Normanby.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

The Right Hon. Richard More O'Ferrall, M.P., is expected to embark in her Majesty's steam-sloop *Oberon*, on Monday next, for conveyance to the seat of his civil government at Malta.

ADMIRAL Sir John West, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief at Plymouth, has stopped the transmission of letters to ships through his office.

REAR-ADmiral Phipps Hornby, C.B., the newly-appointed successor to Rear-Admiral Sir George Seymour, Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific, left town on Monday afternoon for Portsmouth, and hoisted his flag (blue) at the mizen of the *Asta*, 84, Captain R. F. Stopford, at Spithead, on Tuesday. The gallant Admiral put to sea the latter end of this week, for the seat of his command.

HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE, Nov. 5.—Notice has been received from her Majesty's Consul at Lisbon, that, on the 1st of the present month, a fixed red light would be exhibited from the Customs Station-house, at the Fort of San Successo, in the Tagus, to serve as a leading light for clearing the shoal near Belém Castle.

It is said that a battalion of the Guards is to be held in readiness to proceed to the Northern district, in the event of an additional number of troops being required in that part of England.

It is intended for the future to keep a permanent naval force at New Zealand. It will consist of one frigate, one sloop of war, and a steam-sloop. Orders have been sent out to form a naval dépôt at Auckland, and such stores and provisions as cannot be procured at that colony will be sent out from England.

A MERCHANT of Paris, named Singer, lately bequeathed an inscription of rente of 300*fr.* to found a prize of that amount, to be given annually to the sailor of the Royal navy who should best deserve a reward for good conduct and length of service. The Minister of Marine has just decided that a special commission is to be appointed every year, to decide on the claims of the respective candidates, who must have served five years at least.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The third ordinary meeting of the Society of Arts was held on Wednesday evening at the Society's house in the Adelphi. The subject of discussion was the important one of communication between the guard and driver of a railway train, of which five different schemes were submitted to the society. That of Messrs. Brett and Little, and the electric telegraph principle, and Mr. Dutton's acoustic communication, attracted the greatest attention, and were approved of for ingenuity and efficiency; the chief characteristic of the former being its power of getting an alarm bell into motion; and of the latter its propelling sound along a tube and finally through a whistle.

THE LANCASHIRE BELL RINGERS.—Our Paris Correspondent informs us that the gentlemen who some time ago, under the appellation of the Lancashire Bell Ringers, excited some attention in London, have recently been performing in Paris, and that their performances have been very much to the taste of the Parisians. We gave portraits of these gentlemen at the time. They recently performed at a concert, at St. Cloud, before Louis Philippe, and his Majesty expressed to an English lady present his high gratification. They also gave a concert at the Salle Herz, which attracted all the fashion of Paris. The Parisians were delighted with the "Blue Bells of Scotland," transformed into "Les Cloches Bleues d'Écosse."

The passengers by the Marseilles diligence were dreadfully alarmed, a few days ago, on descending in the court-yard, at the office at Toulouse, to see a monster, with bristling hair, and glaring eyes, rush among them, and utter strange cries. The monster was a hyena, which, pressed by hunger, had broken out of a cage on the top of the diligence. After making the four passengers quake dreadfully, for some little time, by causing them to believe that he was about to devour them, the animal rushed into a store containing packages, and buried himself among them. The boldest of the passengers then plucked up sufficient courage to fasten the door. The next day, a gentleman claimed the hyena, which, on seeing him, licked his hands and feet, and otherwise caressed him like a dog. The gentleman was an officer of the army in Africa, and had succeeded in rendering the hyena perfectly tame. He led it, with a cord round its neck, to his hotel, and since then it has been frisking about the courtyard like a dog, and even allowed strangers to caress it.

The following curious circumstance occurred at Cherbourg a few days ago. The town crier, beating his drum, went through the town proclaiming the following—"Notice to young girls!—Four young carpenters who have arrived from Havre, and are employed at the military port (here their names and ages were given), being tired of living a single life, wish to get married. To see them apply at M. Solin's, innkeeper, Rue de Chantier." Two of the would-be husbands accompanied the drummer, who, in showing them to the crowd, cried—"Here, young ladies, is a specimen of the young men who want to be married!"

## NATIONAL SPORTS.

There is a tide in the affairs of man.—SHAKESPEARE.

Without stopping to go into the philosophy of the question—as to whether the hint be taken from the harmonies of nature and the like, the fact is the routine of social life is ordered very much upon the principle of a horse in a mill. The Great Western train is an improvement in locomotion upon "the Derby Dilly"—no doubt as gas is better than the old oil lamps, which were wont to struggle with the night, like fire-flies in a London fog. But these are the effects of science, which has little or nothing to do with the machinery of our homes and habits. You are aware there is something wrong—something you are resolved shall be altered for the better—but it isn't—because the outlay of trouble exceeds the profit; or because you won't or can't—or don't do it. The Duke of

—never changed a tradesman; that was the Medes and Persians rule of his household. Now he had a *maître d'hôtel* without a fault in the world—unless, indeed, you are so fastidious as to object against a taste he had for *écarté*. Well, it so fell out that he had a run of ill luck—and thereupon repaired to the fishmonger of the establishment—with a request for a small discount—£100 at three months—say ten per cent. The tradesman pleaded that money had never before been so "tight" in his experience—that he was very sorry to refuse—that he should be most happy to oblige—in short the bill was not done.

You should have seen the jowl of salmon his Grace had for dinner that night! Since the retiring of the waters of the Flood, the like had never been known.

"What's this?" cried the Duke, about to swoon, as with one accord every perfumed handkerchief at table leaped from its retreat to the nose of its lord or lady.

"what's this dreadful animal? Take it away before it breeds a pestilence." The next day brought a diabolical dory to the board—then came a turbolt!! We won't say a word about the creature or you would never touch one of the species again during your natural life. High fish commanded a premium at Billingsgate—it could not be too lofty, not if one might scent it on the summit of Mont Blanc, from a larder in Chamouni. The Duke, however, was one of the good sort; he stuck to his family fish-merchant with a desperation worthy a martyr, and bore as long as nature and his nose could endure it, such a bombardment of villainous odours as never before assailed a peer of the realm. At length he surrendered. "Tell the house steward to change the fishmonger," he said, "and remove those terrible smells." The next night his Grace sat down to a brace of trout that would have done honour to the *cuisine* of the Pope—while his *maître d'hôtel* discharged all his debts of spirit, beside returning to his customary *écarté* with well-lined pockets.

What sort of a dose shall cure the raging fever of Turf speculation—the epidemic of the ring? That tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood,

has led so many on to ruin, still bears the wreath to the rock and quicksands; while the mariner, casting from him chart and compass, follows where others perish. His father always had a book on the Derby—he opens one also; he plays the horse—no, the ass in the mill: he keeps up old customs; and thus, setting example to the million—who do as their betters (bettors?) do—he countenances a practice which is fast becoming a crying social evil.

We write thus because of the default among betting people which has been brought under our notice. Not to make the rogues mindful that they are committing murder upon their own proper resources; but to point out to honest men the sort of associates they make cause with, when they herd with "legs." It is astonishing the authorities, whose duty it is to watch over and protect public interests and decencies, shut their eyes to the monstrous gambling openly carried on in the metropolis, and every town in the kingdom, under pretence of sweeps and lotteries at this moment. What remains to be done? The State will not arm against the rovers: then is it fit that the Press should point out the risk and danger since those who ought will not take precautions to avert them?

## TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—The few transactions reported this afternoon admit of the following brief quotations:—

LEAMINGTON OPEN STEEPLE CHASE.  
8 to 1 agst The Chandler | 12 to 1 agst Young Lottery | 12 to 1 agst Richard the First  
10 to 1 — The Switcher | 12 to 1 — Standard Guard | 12 to 1 agst Richard the First

TWO THOUSAND GUINEA STAKES.  
4 to 1 agst Blaze (t)

DERBY.  
5 to 1 agst Scott's lot (t) | 6 to 1 agst Dilly's lot | 40 to 1 agst Roslyn  
6 to 1 — Day's lot | 25 to 1 — Nil Desperandum | 40 to 1 — Whitstone  
6 to 1 — Green's lot | 25 to 1 — Loadstone | 50 to 1 — The Fowler

THURSDAY.—The Derby was altogether neglected for the Leamington Open Steeple Chase, on which a few bets were made at the following prices:—

8 to 1 agst Alice | 8 to 1 agst Switzer | 12 to 1 agst St. Ruth  
8 to 1 — Chandler | 12 to 1 — Standard Guard | 20 to 1 — Evergreen  
CHESHIRE CUP.  
1000 to 15 agst Conyngham | 1000 to 10 agst Gamester (t)

## METROPOLITAN NEWS.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY LAWS.—A meeting of merchants, bankers, and others, favourable to an alteration of the present Bankruptcy and Insolvency Laws, was held on Monday at the London Tavern. The chair was taken by Mr. Masterman, M.P. Among those present were Mr. Foster, M.P.; Mr. Mitchell, M.P.; Mr. Pritchard, High Bailiff of Southwark; Mr. Sidney Smith, Mr. Wm. Hawes, &c., &c.—The Secretary having read a report from the Committee, settling forth the various steps adopted by the Society to accomplish its object, and the success which had attended their exertions, which was unanimously adopted, the following resolutions were carried:—

"That this meeting recognises the important advantages to be derived from the administration of the Court of Bankruptcy, and is therefore desirous that greater facilities should be afforded for bringing within its jurisdiction, at the earliest possible period, the persons and estates of Insolvents. That the principle established by the County Courts' Act, of punishment by imprisonment for fraud, wilful extravagance, and dishonesty, ought to be extended, and the Law of Arrest for Debt upon process re-tired, but accompanied with ample precautions against abuse."

BORNEO CHURCH MISSION.—On Monday, at a meeting of the friends of this mission, which was held in the Hanover-square Rooms, on the occasion of the departure of the missionaries for that island and those adjacent to it, several resolutions were passed confirmatory of plans for spreading the light of the gospel among the heathen inhabitants.

CABINET COUNCIL.—A Cabinet Council was held at twelve o'clock to-day, at the residence of the Marquis of Lansdowne, in Berkeley-square. Most of the Ministers were present.

THE Marquis of Lansdowne (Lord President of the Council) gave a grand entertainment on Monday evening, at Lansdowne House, to a distinguished circle of Peers, embracing the colleagues of the noble Marquis in the Upper House, and the leading supporters of the existing Administration. Amongst the party were his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of St. Albans, the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Anglesey, the Marquis of Normanby, the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Marquis of Donegal, the Earl Fitzwilliam, the Earl Spencer, &c., &c.

LODGE JOHN RUSSELL also gave a grand dinner on Monday evening, at his Lordship's official residence in Downing-street, to about forty members of the House of Commons, including the mover and seconder of the Address, in answer to the Royal Speech. The dinner, which was on a scale of great magnificence, had been entrusted to the management of the Messrs. Gunter.

On Wednesday a Court of Directors was held at the East India House, when J. E. Drinkwater Bethune, Esq., was appointed Fourth Ordinary Member of the Council of India.

SALE OF THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE LOUIS BONAPARTE, EX-KING OF HOLLAND.—On Monday Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson, the auctioneers, of Wellington-street, Strand, commenced the sale of the valuable library of the late Louis Bonaparte, ex-King of Holland, consisting of many thousand volumes, principally of French literature. The sale was divided into 1200 lots, and occupied four days in its disposal.

On Tuesday, the 23rd instant, a General Assembly of the Academicians was held at the Royal Academy of Arts, in Trafalgar-square, for the purpose of electing a Secretary and a Professor of Painting, both offices vacant by the death of Henry Howard, Esq., R.A.; when John Prescott Knight, Esq., R.A., was unanimously elected Secretary, and Charles Robert Leslie, Esq., R.A., was unanimously elected Professor of Painting.

THAMES CONSERVANCE.—On Saturday the City Remembrancer (Mr. Tyrell) lodged the requisite notices, with the plans and sections, &c., on behalf of the Mayor and Corporation of the city of London, of intended application during the ensuing session of Parliament, for power to effectually conserve the navigation of the river Thames. This proposed Act empowers the Mayor and Corporation to erect jetties and piers for steam-boats, to levy tolls on steam-boats, to license steam-boat captains, and regulate the number of passengers to be carried according to the tonnage of the vessel, &c.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—In consequence of the great increase in the number of out patients applying at King's College Hospital, the Council of King's College have appointed Dr. George Johnson, Medical Tutor of the College, as an Assistant Physician to the Hospital.

OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH IN THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.—A preliminary meeting was held on Monday at Freemasons' hall, to take into consideration the rumoured increase of Sunday duty at the General Post-Office. Lord Ashley took the chair. Earl Waldegrave, the Hon. A. Kinnaid, the Hon. and Rev. L. Noel, were present. A memorial to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, First Lord of the Treasury, &c., was unanimously agreed to, pointing out the serious evils of Sunday labour, and urging the necessity of the fullest observance of the Sabbath by all persons employed by the Post-Office in town and country.

MORTALITY IN LONDON.—From the last weekly report of the Registrar-General it appears that the number of deaths registered during the past week amounted to 549 males and 549 females; total, 1098. The number of births registered during the same period being 638 males and 637 females; 1275. The weekly average derived from deaths of 1842-3-4-5-6, and corrected for increase of population, being 528 males and 518 females; total, 1046.

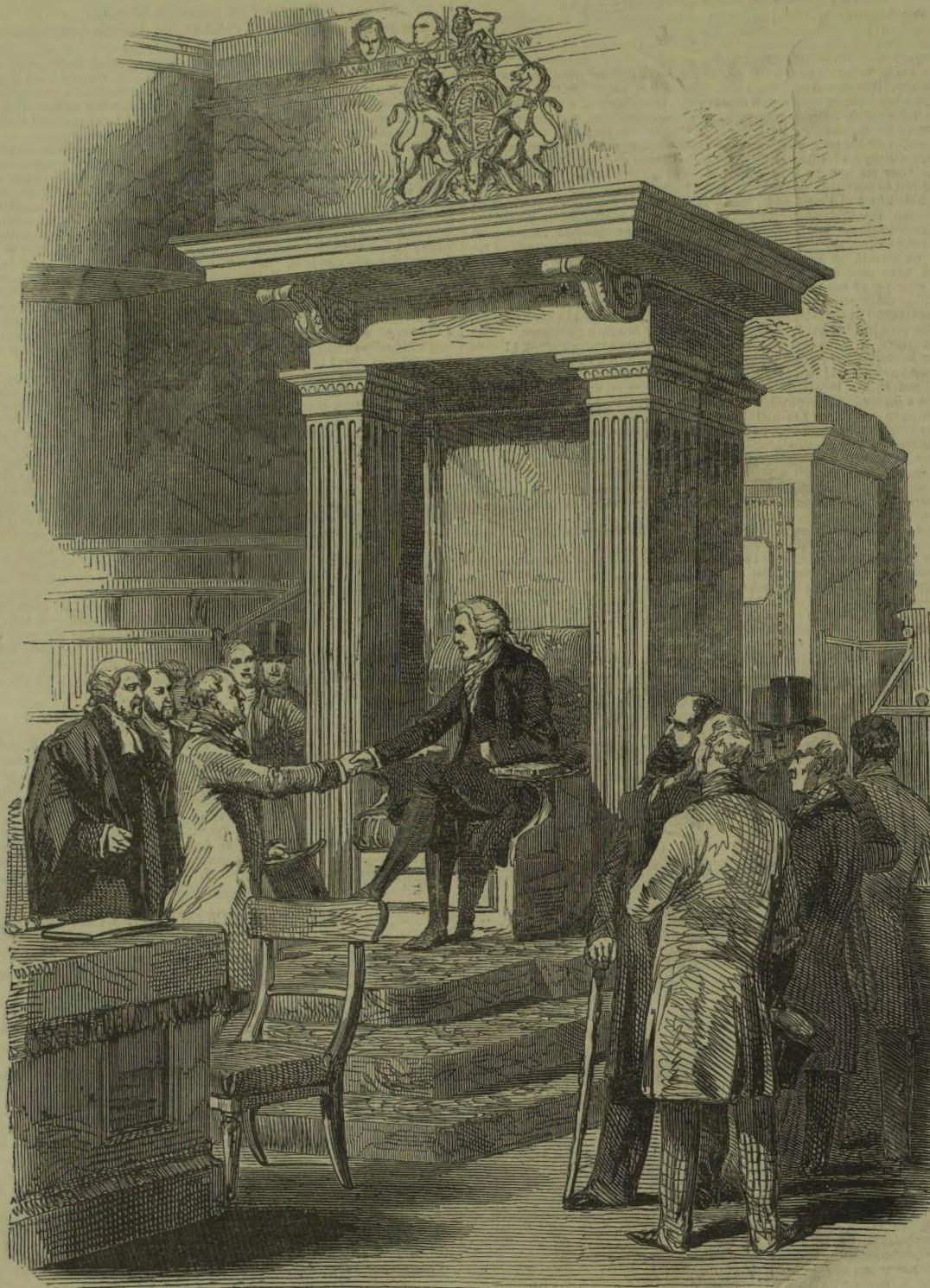
BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOV. 20.—The total number of births registered in the week within the districts included by the bills of mortality was 1256, a number exceeding that of the previous week by 19. Of the 1256 births, 616 were males and 640 females. The total deaths in the same week and district amounted to 1086, of which 544 were males and 542 females. Thus the deaths this week are less than the births by 170; they are also less than the deaths of the previous week by 12, and more than the weekly average for the last five autumns by 40. The mean temperature of the week was 18 less than the mean temperature of the corresponding week on an average of 25 years.

## LAW INTELLIGENCE.

## COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

(Sittings in Banco, before Lord Chief-Justice Denman and Justices Coleridge, Wightman, and

## THE NEW PARLIAMENT.



INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO THE SPEAKER.

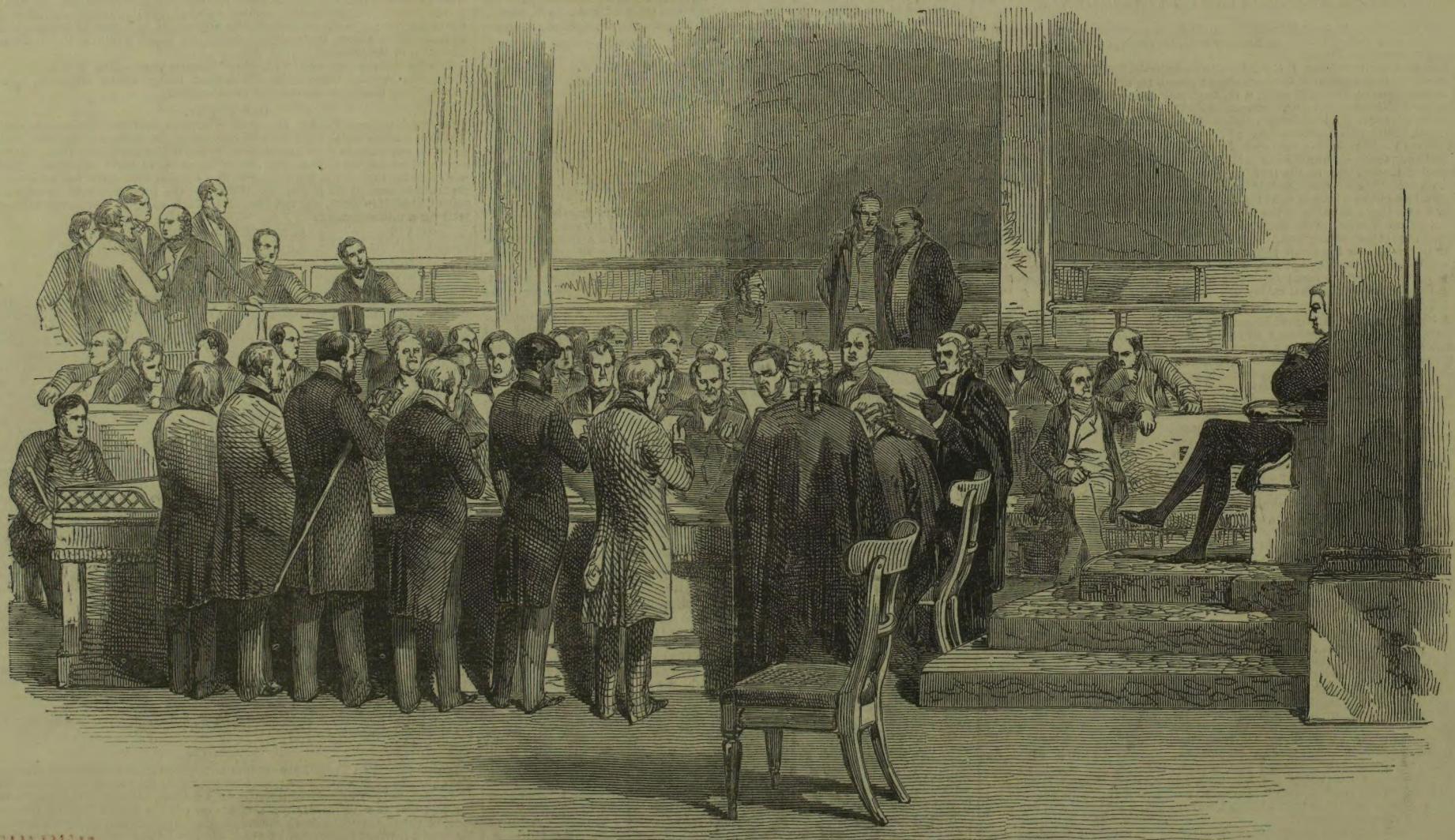


MR. HEYWOOD, M.P. FOR NORTH LANCASHIRE.

THE forms observed at the opening of a new Parliament, following, as they do, minutely and strictly, the precedents of former ages, preserve enough of costume and picturesqueness, independently of their political interest, to render them fit subjects for illustration. We have selected some of the chief incidents from those preliminary ceremonials which have occupied the past week—the Administration of the Oaths to the Peers and Commons, the Speaker at the Bar of the House of Lords receiving the Sovereign's Confirmation of his Election, the Introduction of New Members to the Speaker, and the last form, which brings the two branches of the Legislature together to hear the Address from the Throne.

For six years past the nation has hardly known a more eventful day than the 18th of November, 1847. That day witnessed the assemblage of a new Parliament, called together at a period of unusual difficulty—with Christmas, too, little more than a month distant. By noon, crowds of idle people had gathered around the entrances to the Legislative Chambers; and, precisely as the sonorous bells of the Abbey chimed forth the hour of one, the batch of upholsterers' men engaged in the usual sessional furnishing up of the House of Commons finished their task, and took their departure. Within half an hour after, the clerks were at their posts, the dressing out of the table of the House was completed, and the two familiar red boxes, in span new morocco covers, with the best batch of books in vermillion and gold binding, were deposited in their proper places by the busy messengers. Ere this was all arranged, the members had begun to arrive; and if a stranger lingered in the passage of the House, his ears would be gratified with a succession of comments, made by the assembled loungers, on them as they passed along. If he turned into the lobby, he would see the hearty welcome given by the doorkeepers of the honourable House to the old familiar faces, and the almost patronising shaking of the hand they bestowed on their particular favourites. And he could not fail to notice the cool survey these ancient officials took of the numerous strangers who, in virtue of the votes of their constituents, presented themselves for admittance.

Whilst all this was going on, every now-and-then some luckless stranger—an early, wretched petitioner, maybe, who, anxious for the ful-



MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TAKING THE OATHS.

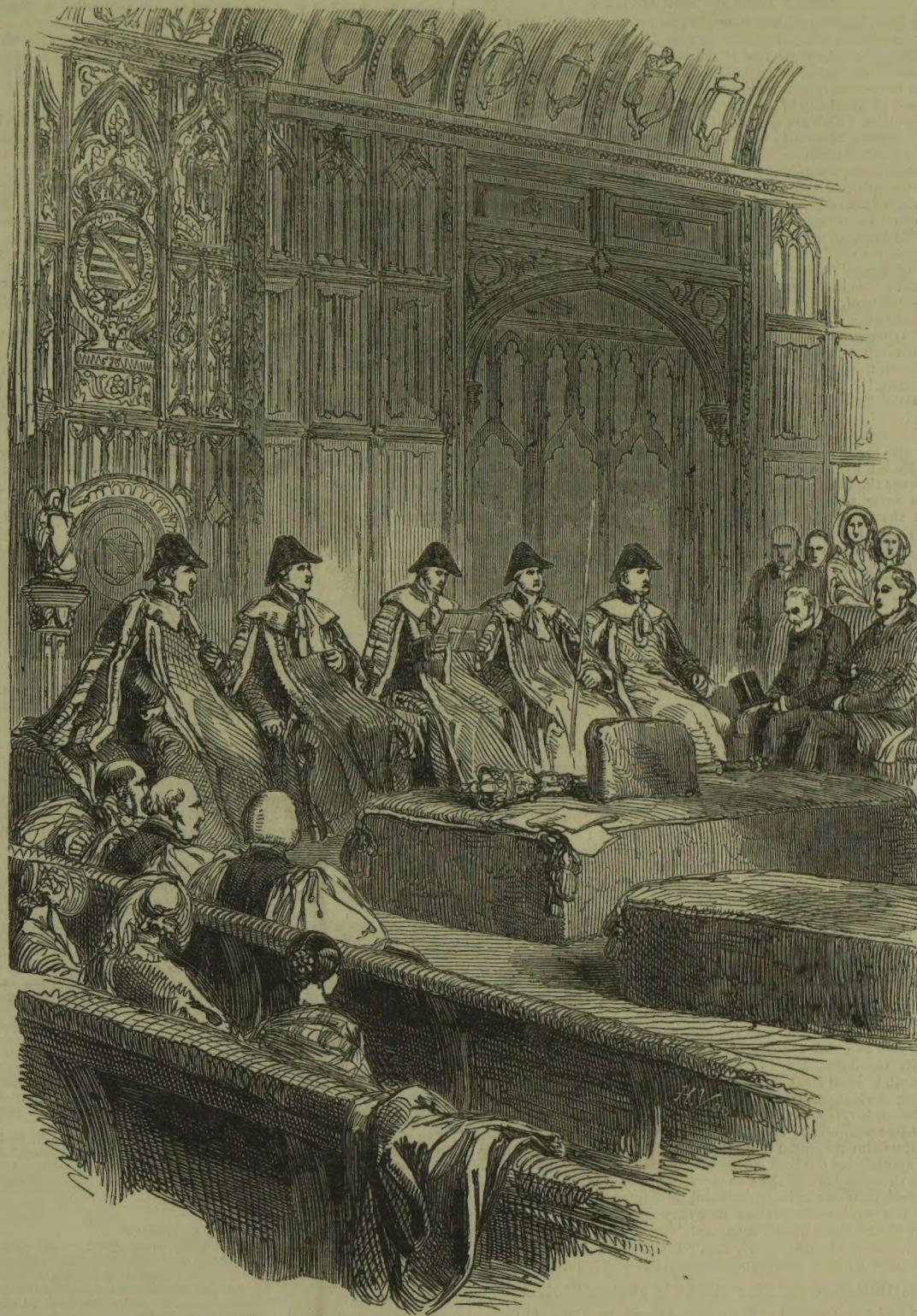
## THE NEW PARLIAMENT.



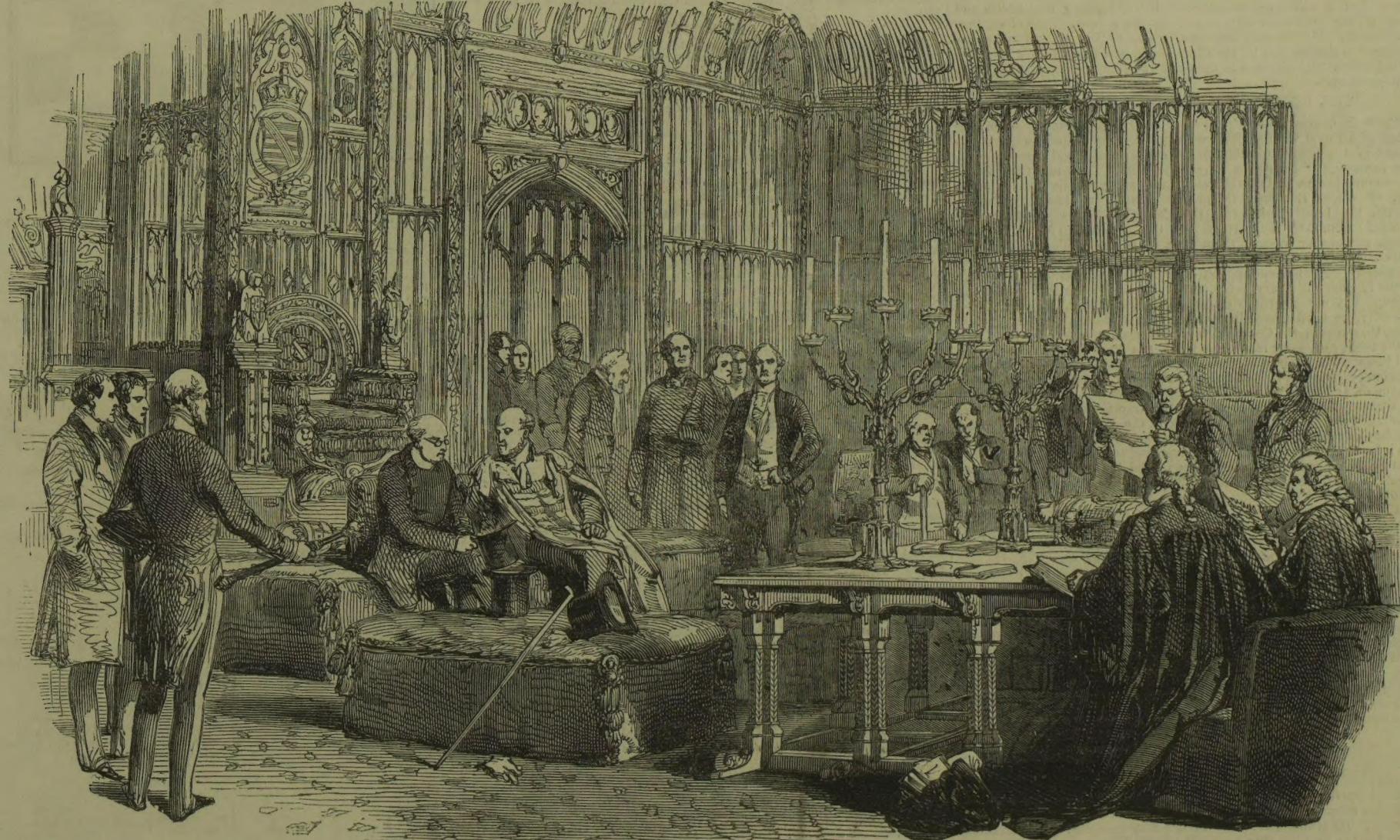
THE EARL OF YARBOROUGH.

filment of an election-promise of a berth in the Customs or Excise, was on the look-out for some new-fledged legislator—summoned up sufficient courage to address one or the other of these twin sentinels of the Legislative Chamber door-way, concerning the said member's whereabouts. He gets for answer the quiet observation that they have not the pleasure of such a gentleman's acquaintance—this, by the way, somewhat pompously, and with a knowing wink at the grinning by-standers. Arrival after arrival is rapidly taking place, and the floor of the House is occupied with a somewhat varied company. Many stand there who, before another month has passed, will have had their little sway, and sunk into insignificance. The growing ambition, too, of more than one little mind, will, in that brief while, have experienced a salutary check. Chatty groups are formed in every direction; and many formal, and some few sincere, shakings of the hand take place between new friends and ancient foes. There stands the late Speaker, Mr. Charles Shaw Le Feuvre, receiving the congratulations of all; and close to him, among the crowd of covered heads, we see the shining poll and good-tempered face of Sir Robert Harry Inglis. Lord G. Bentinck, seated for a moment or two—where he would, doubtless, desire to sit for the remainder of the Session, on the Ministerial Benches, is talking to Mr. Muntz, possibly about the "Birmingham inconvertible." He hastily leaves him, however, for a friendly and somewhat lengthy gossip with Lord John Russell. Mr. Disraeli is exchanging familiar nods and smiles with every one, always excepting his old hobby, Sir Robert Peel. W. J. Fox, Member for Oldham, sits wrapped in moody reverie, possibly surmising whether that eloquence which commanded the applause of thousands beneath the roof of Covent Garden Theatre will secure even a quiet hearing within the walls of St. Stephen's.

But now the hum of voices is stilled, and gradually the floor of the House is cleared, and the Members, one after another, take their seats. The Treasury Bench seems tolerably well filled, but its occupants are too far off to be individually recognised. Lord Morpeth, the Minister of the People, is certainly there, chatting with Lord Dundas. Attention is now awakened, to be, however, speedily satisfied. The Usher of the Black Rod is announced, with a message from the Lords; and he is soon seen walking slowly and stately up the body of the House, here and there standing still, and treating the Members to one of those formal bows which only your genuine officials are competent to make.



THE READING OF THE SPEECH.



PEERS TAKING THE OATHS.

His message delivered, the Clerk of the House leads the way to the Lords, followed by the greater portion of the members present.

#### PEERS TAKING THE OATHS.

Every Peer, before he can assume his seat in a new Parliament, has to take the oaths of allegiance, of supremacy, and abjuration. The form of procedure is as follows:—The House is assembled as for a debate, the Lord Chancellor, or his deputy, presiding on the woolsack; the Peer advances to the table, and presents his writ of summons to the new Parliament (a small slip of parchment) to the clerk, who immediately reads the oaths, which are repeated by the noble Lord, as in a Court of Justice. Several Peers may be sworn together, in the same manner as a Jury; some curious political combinations are presented by the groups thus formed; no order or precedence is observed, nor is there any distinction made between the spiritual and temporal Peers; the only exception to the usual form is that of Princes of the Blood Royal, who are sworn singly, though other Peers may be ready to take the oath at the same time. Each noble Lord, after he is sworn, signs the Roll of Parliament; and here we may explain that this is not a metaphorical term, like the "Scroll of Fame," the "Leaves of Destiny," and other imaginary documents. It is literally what its name implies, a "roll," or narrow strip of parchment, some yards in length, which lies on the table during the proceedings, often displaying a goodly stretch of sheepskin on the floor. It is only a few inches in width; the Peers sign their names under each other in one line down the centre. When rolled up, it forms a short, thick, compact mass, and is very fitly called the "Roll of Parliament."

The administering of the oaths to a new Peer is a much more formal and stately proceeding. He is introduced by Garter-King-at-Arms, in his full herald's dress; the Duke of Norfolk, Hereditary Grand Marshal, also in his robes; and by the Usher of the Black Rod. He is accompanied by two other Peers, who, as well as the noble Lord himself, wear the full robes of their rank. The Lord Chancellor or the Chairman cover to receive the party, which proceeds, with three obeisances to the Throne, up to the table. If the peerage is a new one, the letters patent of creation are presented to the clerk; if the title has fallen by succession to the present holder, he gives in his writ of summons. He then takes the oaths, after which he is escorted to his seat on the Dukes', Barons', or Earls' benches, as the case may be, preceded by Garter King at Arms and the Black Rod. On taking his seat he covers, but immediately removes his hat, bows to the chair, and the ceremony is over. Two Peers have thus taken their seats in the new Parliament; Sir Richard Bulkeley Phillips Phillips, created Baron Milford, and the Earl of Strafford, promoted to that dignity from the rank of Baron, which he previously held.

#### COMMONS TAKING THE OATHS.

The form of administering the oaths to the Members of the House of Commons is more complicated than that of the House of Lords, there being more preliminaries to settle; and, from the greater number of Members, the oath is taken by larger parties at once. Each Member presents his return, and, after being sworn, gives in his qualification.

On Monday some amusement was created in the House by Sir R. Peel having forgot to bring his qualification with him; he was obliged to leave the House for the necessary document. The Speaker is the first to be sworn; he takes the oaths as soon as his election has been confirmed by the Sovereign; they are administered to him by the clerk, Mr. Ley, who, during the election of Speaker, acts as the moderator of the House of Commons. The counties are called alphabetically, and the members connected with them, both of boroughs and cities, as well as the knights of the shire, proceed to the table, and are sworn. We quote the following description of the first day's proceedings (Friday last) from the *Times*:—"The members for Bedfordshire were first called, and afterwards those for Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Chester, and Cornwall; whereupon so many of the knights of the shire, citizens and burgesses, from those counties as were present made a circle round the table and took the oaths. Among the group thus formed we observe, Mr. Goulburn, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Law, Sir J. Jervis, the Hon. Mr. Campbell, Colonel Reid, Mr. J. Williams, and Mr. Wyld. The oaths of allegiance and supremacy, read aloud by the clerk, were, it was observed, repeated heartily and *ore rotundo* by Mr. Goulburn and Mr. Law, while the other members at the table, each of whom was furnished with a copy of the oath, contented themselves with reading it mentally after the clerk, and kissing the book at the conclusion. The members at the table (with the exception of the two representatives for the University of Cambridge) then respectively delivered in their several qualifications, and made the requisite declaration that they were duly qualified, after which they signed the rolls of Parliament."

Two tables, covered with green baize, were brought into the House, in order to allow a larger number of members to be sworn at once.

#### INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SPEAKER.

This is a social custom rather than a legal formality. The old members of the House, the "familiar faces," on which the Speaker has looked through years of gaslight and controversy, of course need no introduction; they greet him as an old friend, and congratulate him on his re-election with a certain easy cordiality, wishing him health and patience, the latter especially, to perform the arduous duties of another Parliament. But the new members, as soon as they are sworn, are introduced to the Speaker by the Chief Clerk, who repeats their names in a loud voice; they advance to the chair and shake hands with the right hon. gentleman.

#### THE READING OF THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

There is a good deal of old and picturesque ceremonial in the forms of a Royal Commission, whether it is appointed to give the assent of the Crown to a bill, or to deliver the Royal Speech, when the Sovereign, "for divers weighty reasons," does not think fit to do so in person. The Commissioners are generally five in number, of whom the Lord Chancellor is one, or when he cannot attend, the Lord President of the Council. The other Peers are selected from the supporters of the Ministry for the time being, and one or more of them may be of the Cabinet. They are named in the Commission as "Our trusty and well-beloved cousin and counsellor." At the hour appointed for the Commission, they enter the House in their full Peers' robes, and take their seats in front of the Throne, but not on the woolsack; the first Royal Commissioner—generally the Lord Chancellor—sits in the middle. On taking their seats, they cover; the Commission is then read at length by the Clerk at the table, and, as he reads each name, the Peer designated uncovers and bows. The reading of the Commission finished, the Chief Commissioner directs the Usher of the Black Rod to summon the House of Commons, and tell their arrival; the Commissioners and the House sit in silence. Presently, a rush, and the trampling of many feet are heard, and the Speaker, in his robes, with the Black Rod by his side, and followed by a greater or smaller number of members, according to the interest of the occasion, is seen advancing to the bar. It is etiquette that he should make three obeisances to the Lords Commissioners between the entrance and the bar, which are returned by their Lordships, who uncover, and bow simultaneously.

The present Speaker goes through these courtly forms, which are tinged with the manners of the past century rather than the present, with great ease and elegance of manner; his deportment has the perfect grace and self-possession of the accomplished gentleman.

As soon as the Commons have ranged themselves in standing order, the Chief Commissioner reads her Majesty's Speech; as soon as he completes it, he and the other Lords Commissioners uncover, and bow as before, while the Speaker and the members retire from the bar; their Lordships then rise, and bow with great profanity and decorum to each other, put on their hats, and retire from the House.

We have given an Illustration of the Speaker and members at the bar. Though the Commons have much more space for their accommodation below the bar of the present House than in the old one, it is not sufficient for the number who occasionally attend: on Tuesday last it was densely crowded.

#### MOVERS OF THE ADDRESS.

MR. J. HEYWOOD, M.P.

ACCORDING to custom, the Address in the Commons, in reply to the Queen's Speech, was moved by a new member, Mr. James Heywood, who was returned for the Northern Division of Lancashire at the last election. He is the fifth son of the late Nathaniel Heywood, banker, of Manchester; he is brother to Sir Benjamin Heywood, who represented Lancashire in 1831. He was born in Liverpool in 1810. On leaving

Cambridge, where he was Senior Optime, in 1833, he studied for, and was called to, the bar. He is a Liberal, of rather more than Whiggish tendencies as he is in favour of the Ballot, and a further, though not unlimited, extension of the suffrage. He advocates a modification of the Navigation Laws and a reform of the Irish Church. We have given the hon. gentleman's speech in full in our Supplement. He was returned for the important district he represents without opposition.

#### THE EARL OF YARBOROUGH.

THE Address in the House of Lords was moved by the Earl of Yarborough, who is one of the junior Peers, having only succeeded to the title within the past year. His Lordship is much better known as the Mr. Worsley, of the House of Commons, where he frequently took part in the debates. In passing from the lower House to the upper the public frequently loses sight of men with whose names they have been made familiar through the columns of the daily press—the new dignity very often throws a veil over the old reputation. Charles Anderson Worsley Pelham is the second Earl of the title, to which he succeeded in 1846—he was born in 1809. His Lordship has never held any political office; but he takes an active interest in the extension of the lines of railway connected with the county of Lincoln and the midland districts.

The Seconder of the Address was to have been the Earl of Besborough, but he was unable to attend, and his substitute was Lord Elphinstone; his Lordship was evidently quite unprepared for the call upon him; he uttered but a few sentences, and they were not heard. Lord Stanley, who rose to deliver one of his sweeping and effective attacks, immediately the noble Seconder sat down, made rather an ill-natured allusion to this incident. Having termed the Address "the echo of a Speech singularly commonplace, and peculiarly barren in its character," he remarked, "It is incumbent upon me to say a few words in explanation of the impressions which have been made upon my mind by the Speech itself, and the expressions of my noble friends the Mover and Seconder of the reply. With regard, indeed, to the speech of the Seconder, I may pass that by, my Lords, without much observation. My noble friend, I am aware, upon what in another sphere is called 'the shortest possible notice,' took upon himself the part which he has done us the favour to play for this occasion."

#### OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

##### THE ELECTOR OF HESSE.

WILLIAM II., Elector of Hesse, was born on the 28th July, 1777. He succeeded to the Electorate, on the death of his father, the 27th February, 1821. He had married, the 13th February, 1797, Augusta, daughter of Frederick William II., King of Prussia, by whom he had two daughters, one of whom is Reigning Duchess of Saxe-Meinengen; an only son, Prince Frederick William, co-Regent of Hesse since 1831, and now his father's successor, as Elector. The late Elector, five months after the death of his Consort, espoused, in Morganatic wedlock, Emilia, Countess of Reichenbach-Lessonitz, who survives him. His Royal Highness died at Frankfort, on the 20th instant, after a few days' illness. The Duchess of Cambridge is of the family of, and first cousin to, the deceased Elector.

##### DR. DIBBIN.

The Rev. Thomas Froggall Dibbin, D.D., Rector of St. Mary's District Church, Bryanston-square, Vicar of Exning, Suffolk, and Chaplain in Ordinary to her Majesty, was the son, by his second marriage, of Captain Dibbin, a gallant officer in the British Navy, and brother of the famous Thomas Dibbin, the intrepid nautical poet. Dr. Dibbin mentions, in his own memoirs, that his father was the Tom Bowling of his uncle's writings. The Doctor himself lost his father when a child, and he was educated under the guardianship of his uncle. After passing through various preliminary schools he became a student of St. John's College, Cambridge. From his earliest schoolboy years, Thomas Froggall Dibbin displayed that taste for ancient books and antique lore, which formed the delight and ornament of his after life. On leaving College, he became a member of Lincoln's Inn, and, having married, settled with his family at Worcester as a special pleader. He, however, soon quitted the legal profession for the Church, and was ordained a clergyman in 1805. He then commenced that career of peculiar authorship which produced the "Bibliomania," the "Decameron," the "Bibliographical Tour," and many other works, brilliant in research, style, and decoration. His books, indeed, had all popularity, and were all of curious and unique fame.

As a minister of the Church of England, Dr. Dibbin was active, zealous, and effective in the performance of his duties. His "Sunday Library" enhanced his clerical reputation, as did, also, other religious publications. After being for twenty-four years the respected Rector of St. Mary's, Bryanston-square, Dr. Dibbin died on the 18th instant, in his 72nd year.

##### CAPTAIN GROVER.

This gallant officer was educated at Soho, under Dr. Barrow, contemporary with Sir John Moore, and earned a high reputation for military scientific skill. His fairest fame, however, rests on the circumstances which connect him with the indefatigable Dr. Wolff. By him the mission of the worthy Doctor to Bokhara was projected, and his chivalrous conduct in raising the Stoddard and Conolly fund is well known. To his exertions Dr. Wolff owes the preservation of his life, by the intervention of Bokhara of the friendly power of Persia. It is much to be feared that his energy in the cause contributed to his early death, since after the event he appeared to gradually lose his voice, and to fail in bodily, though never in mental faculty. Captain Grover died at Brussels on the 5th instant.

##### MR. NEALE.

J. P. NEALE was an artist whose illustrative talents did the highest honour to the profession. He was the well-known designer of the "Views of Westminster Abbey," and he was also the author of that justly favourite work, "Neale's Country Seats of the Nobility and Gentry." Most of our finest ecclesiastical structures have been given in beautiful and elaborate embellishment by him to the public; and we have a vivid recollection of his beautiful drawings of Mr. Barry's design for the New Houses of Parliament. During his useful life, he had the respect and admiration of a host of friends: his services for nearly half a century in the appointment he held at the Post Office were highly esteemed and approved. Mr. Neale died on the 14th inst., at Tattingstone, in Suffolk.

##### MR. NEALE.

Opposition to Mr. Kershaw.—Friday a meeting of the Conservative electors of Stockport was held at the Warren Bulkeley Arms, the Rector in the chair, to consider who should be called upon as a candidate in the room of Mr. Cobden. After some discussion, it was unanimously resolved that Major Marsland should be brought forward as the second Tory candidate.

A SOMEWHAT remarkable undertaking is at this moment in progress in Sweden—that of lowering the waters of the great lake of Orléon to the extent of twelve feet. This operation has become necessary, in consequence of the construction of a railway from Stockholm to Gothenburg. It will cause upwards of 10,000 acres to be brought into cultivation.

HENRY KEITH STEWART, Esq.—On Saturday, a commission *de lunatico inquirendo* was opened before Mr. Commissioner Winslow, and 16 special jurors, to inquire into the state of mind of H. K. Stewart, Esq., son of the Hon. John Henry Keith Stewart, and nephew of the Earl of Galloway. There were present the Hon. Granville and Charles Stewart, and other members of the above noble family, which traces its descent from the celebrated Sir Walter Stewart, who was High Steward of Scotland at the commencement of the 13th century, a descendant of whom was James Stewart, King of Scotland, who ascended the Scottish Throne in the year 1371. The commission, which was unopposed, was taken out at the instance of the Hon. John Henry Keith Stewart, with a view to the due appropriation of a sum of £10,000, at present under the control of Mr. H. K. Stewart, the alleged lunatic, who is but 26 years of age. The unfortunate gentleman was, at the conclusion of the evidence, introduced; and, by his answers and deportment, so fully bore out the testimony, that the Jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict, "That Henry Keith Stewart is now of unsound mind, and has been so since the 1st of February, 1847."

Local Acts.—By a Parliamentary Index, issued on Saturday, it appears that, in the Session of 1847, as many as 720 reports were made relative to applications for local acts. It was provided by the statute 9 and 10 Victoria, cap. 106, that reports should be made by competent parties, with the view of saving the great outlay which had occurred in obtaining acts for local purposes. The reports, the index of which was printed on Saturday, are the first made under the new law.

Mrs. CAROLLA GRISI, who is now engaged at Brussels, on Sunday last met with an accident that for a time caused some uneasiness to the audience. In the second act of "Giselle," she crosses the stage on a sort of cloud; the machine being launched too quickly, it struck against one of the decorations, and Mrs. Grisi received a severe blow on the leg and on the arm; in spite of the pain caused by the accident, she, however, continued to the end of the ballet.

The STEPHEN WHITNEY.—Captain Thomson, formerly commander and part owner of the *Stephen Whitney*, together with Mr. Sands, of Liverpool, also part owner and consignee of the unfortunate ship, have arrived in Cork, and proceeded to the scene of disaster. Ship and cargo were fully insured. The remainder of the crew are in Cork, in a very distressed state; steps, however, are being taken for their relief. The Society of Friends, as usual, takes the lead in the work of charity.

The BOOK FAIR AT LEIPZIG.—The *Presse* publishes the following letter from Leipzig:—"The catalogue of the books to be offered for sale at the approaching fair contains 4871 articles in that trade, comprising books, journals, and geographical maps, being about 1000 less than last year. But, still, the proportion of pamphlets written in German increases. Amongst those pamphlets on religious controversy, and scientific and political subjects, 76 were published by Dissenters, 37 are relative to the high price of provisions and the necessities of the labouring classes, and 10 on the potato disease."

#### CH ESS.

##### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Subcriber."—We are obliged, from want of space, to decline supplying solutions to Problems belonging to other periodicals; besides, we have already given the key to the one in question. Try it once more—it is one of the most beautiful of the many beautiful inventions of Mr. Bolton.

"J. R."—Mr. Harrwitz has been playing lately in Paris, but no matches have been got up, we are sorry to say, between him and the leading men. He is en route now for Berlin, from whence we hope to hear from him.

"C. H. S." New York.—We are surprised that no acknowledgment of the safe arrival of the packet sent through the American Booksellers has yet reached us. It was despatched at least six months ago.

"Red-Rook."—The delay in acknowledging your Problem is attributable to the unusual mode of address you have adopted. All letters should be directed to the Editor.

"Sopractita" has failed in Mr. Meymott's capital little Problem.

"Aptropis."—You may commence the game as you choose, either by moving any of your Pawns, or by first bringing out one of the Knights.

"Mess-mate."—It shall appear.

"A. Z. B. Y."—Mate can be easily effected thus:—1. K takes B; 2. K to B 7th; 3. P takes P; 4. P to Kt 5th; Mate.

"Si Fum."—The King may Castle with either Rook. If on his own side, he must be placed on the Kt sq, and the Rook on K B sq. If on the Queen's side, then he is to be played to Q B sq, and the Rook to Q sq. These trifles should be learned from some elementary work before beginning to play.

"H. B."—If a Problem can be solved in less than the stipulated number of moves, the inventor is in error. Your attempt to solve No. 200 is quite wrong.

"W. P. S."—In Problem 199, you can take the Rook with Rook on the first move, and then Q with Q, which forces the King to capture the Q. You have failed in No. 200.

"J. G."—We have received but one correct solution of Mr. Meymott's beautiful Problem. Yours is a failure, as Black may interpose his Kt at the third move, when you check with the B, and thus delay the mate.

"J. R. R." Ipswich.—The solution of Enigma No. 225 (a capital stratagem) is:—1. Kt to Q B 5th (ch); 2. Kt to K 5th (ch); 3. P becomes a Kt; 4. K mates.

"G. P." Bristol.—A "Queened" Pawn has the power of the original Queen, whether that is on the board or not.

"Margaret J." Kensington.—The establishment of a Ladies' Chess Club, is, indeed, an event in the history of the game, and one of the most pleasing evidences of the progress this fine intellectual discipline is making in society. Let us hope the example set by the ladies in Kensington will be followed by our countrywomen in other directions. The game played between Miss E. and Miss M. is excellent in style, and calculated to afford a very high notion of the capabilities of the fair combatants. Can it be possible they have attained such knowledge of the game in three months' practice only?

"T. D. m." Cardiff.—Hoyle's Rules for Playing Chess are contemptible. He evidently knew nothing whatever of the game, and, as an authority upon it, is merely ridiculous.

"B. N." Chelmsford.—The games in the memorable French Match can only be got by purchasing Vol. V. of the "Chess-Player's Chronicle," in which they originally appeared.

"Indus." "T. W. P." and "B. C." have failed in No. 200.

"T. C. O."—If practicable, your suggestions shall be adopted.

"A. B. C."—You have merely to change the order of the first and second move in 192. By taking with the Rook first, all is right.

Solutions by "G. A. H." "Supracita" (except No. 200), "Miles," "Physic," "M. N. O." "M. P." "S. T. V." "Atta," "G. P." "L. M. N." "F. S." "Punch," "Q. E. D." "Stultus," "W. E." "G. A. H." are correct. Those by "Grig," "W. J." "H. B." are wrong.

## MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

Affairs in the City during the past week have continued to wear a comparatively cheerful aspect. Confidence is gradually increasing, and the discount houses and bankers are daily growing more liberal in their advances. The determination of the Directors of the Bank of England, to cease making eight per cent. the minimum rate, transpired on Monday, and was supposed to indicate that the Government guarantee to the Bank for extending its issues, had been withdrawn. This proved to be the case, the following confirmatory correspondence appearing on Tuesday:—

DOWNING-STREET, Nov. 23, 1847.

" Gentlemen.—Her Majesty's Government have watched with the deepest interest the gradual revival of confidence in the commercial classes of the country.

" It appears, from the accounts which you have transmitted to us, that the reserve of the Bank of England has been for some time steadily increasing, and now amounts to £5,000,000. This increase has in great measure arisen from the return of notes and coin from the country.

" The bullion exceeds £10,000,000, and the state of the Exchanges promises a further influx of the precious metals.

" The knowledge of these facts by the public is calculated to inspire still further confidence.

" In these circumstances it appears to her Majesty's Government that the purpose which they had in view in the letter which we addressed to you on the 25th October, has been fully answered, and that it is unnecessary to continue that letter any longer in force.

" We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

" Your obedient humble servants,

(Signed)

J. RUSSELL,

CHARLES WOOD.

The Governor and Deputy Governor of the Bank of England."

Bank of England, Nov. 23, 1847.

" Gentlemen.—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, in which you communicate to us, that, in consequence of the gradual revival of confidence in the commercial classes of the country, it appears to her Majesty's Government that the object they had in view in the letter they addressed to us on the 25th October has been fully answered, and that it is unnecessary to continue that letter any longer in force.

" We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

" Your most obedient servants,

(Signed)

JAMES MORRIS, Governor,

H. J. PRESCOTT, Dep.-Governor.

To the First Lord of the Treasury, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer."

An improvement in the English Funds, and in those lines of railways finished and paying dividends, was the immediate result. A few weeks of the growing confidence that has been evident during the last few days, must speedily communicate itself to trade, and thus tend to find employment for the population during the next few months. Whenever a revival of business really commences, great activity must immediately take place. The universal shortness of stocks, existing for some months past, ensure this result. This leads to strong anticipations of the effect of the next Spring trade, not only in connection with the home trade, but also with our exports. By this means, the gold will find its way back to this country, and the currency gradually regain its extent and equilibrium.

The draughts of the West India Bank were, on Monday, refused acceptance by their agents, the Union Bank of London. It appears that the West India Bank had, against the repeated and emphatic warnings of the manager of the Union Bank, continued to purchase the bills of Higginson, Dean, and Scott, of Barbados, on Barton, Islam, and Higginson, of Liverpool, to the extent of £47,000. The capital of the concern, which was established about two years back, is £120,000, but its liabilities are large, and wholly disproportioned to this amount. Exchange operation constituted one extensive feature of the business carried on. Its cash deposits held on interest are very large, and it also issues notes. Judging from the last balance-sheet presented, dated August 27, 1847, the general affairs of the institution appear to have been conducted in a most unsound manner, the cash in hand to meet £413,540 of notes in circulation, balances due to other banks, and deposits from customers, being only £34,167, or less than one-twelfth of the amount.

By the terms of the charter of the West India Bank, the liability of the shareholders is such as, under any circumstances, to place the ultimate solvency of the concern almost beyond doubt. The conditions of the charter, which was granted, we find, in 1841, required the payment of £120,000 in addition, within two years from that date; and although compliance with this was dispensed with at the time by a Treasury minute, in consequence of representations from the Bank that the addition was not needed, the liability still continues, while it is also provided that after this shall have been paid, and the full capital of the Bank shall have thus been constituted, the proprietors are then to be responsible for double the amount of their entire shares. In this way the actual amount of guarantee to the creditors of the Bank may be stated at £480,000; so that, although the objectionable course of departing from the principle of unlimited responsibility has been permitted to this establishment, there is still a sufficient amount of liability to afford considerable protection.

The estate of Messrs. Bensusan is likely to be administered by the Bankruptcy Court. The liabilities are £52,016, and the assets only £3951, and the losses by bad debts seem to be about £27,000, although one item of £22,000 over last, does not appear in the balance sheet, and is said to have been assigned over.

The choice of assignees under the estate of Messrs. Brodi and Bode, bankers, of Salisbury and Shaftesbury, took place on Tuesday, in Basinghall-street, when debts to the extent of nearly £50,000 were proved, principally upon notes and deposits.

A statement that appeared in last week's ILLUSTRATED NEWS with regard to a circular issued by Messrs. Trueman and Cook, does not appear to have been carried into effect. A new circular has been issued by Mr. J. P. Mason, in which he informs the customers of the late firm, with whom he was engaged seventeen years, that he has decided on carrying on the business of a broker on his own account.

On the determination of the Bank of England to reduce the rate of interest to 7 per cent. becoming known, considerable animation ensued in the English Market. Consols opened at 84 to 1/2, but, afterwards, yielding to some heavy sales, quoted 84. An advance of 1/2 per cent., however, resulted upon the course pursued by the Directors of the Bank of England being corroborated, but a slight depression upon the news of the difficulty in which the West India Bank was placed, caused Consols to close at 84 to 85, for money. Anticipations of the Queen's Speech being, in many respects, favourable, in addition to the publication of the Ministerial correspondence with the Directors of the Bank of England, gave an impetus to prices on Tuesday. Consols opened at 84 to 85, for money, and gradually improved to 85 1/2, but, afterwards, slightly gave way, closing at 85 1/2, for money and time. On Wednesday Consols opened heavily, at 84 1/2 to 85, but a purchase of 300,000 stock to close a large account, caused an advance to 85 1/2. This brought in sellers, and a fall of 1/2 per cent. was the consequence. Another rise occurred, and the closing price was 85 1/2 to 86. Thursday was settling-day in Consols, and two firms were declared defaulters, one being very heavy Bears. It proved a Bear account, and the party are heavy losers. The necessity for buying in their accounts gave a buoyancy to prices, from the commencement of business; and Consols advanced to 85 1/2: a slight reaction, however, occurred towards the close, and 85 1/2 was the last price. Exchequer Bills have improved, but not to the extent of Consols; nor has Bank or India Stock shewn fully in the advance. The report that the India Company were about to contract a loan of two millions, is understood to be without foundation. At closing, the Market was buoyant, at the following prices:—Bank Stock, 189; Reduced, 83 1/2; Consols, 85 1/2; New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Annuities, 85 1/2; Long Annuities, to expire Jan. 1, 1860, 87 1/2; Ditto, Oct. 10, 1859, 8 15/16; Ditto, 30 Years, Jan. 5, 1860, 8 13/16; India Bonds, £1000, 22 d; Consols for Account, 86 1/2; Exchequer Bills, £1000, par; Ditto, £500, 1 p; Ditto, Small, par.

A mass of correspondence, too tedious to trouble our readers with, has just been published, between the Mexican Minister in this country and Messrs. Schneider and Co. The brief history of the matter appears to be that the Mexican Minister, under date of the 19th October last, wrote to Messrs. Schneider and Co., as the agents in the last conversion of Mexican stock, stating that he had been required by Messrs. Sheppard and Son to direct Schneider to receive for conversion 95 bonds of £500 each (Letter D 2106 to 2200) for £47,500, which they had hitherto refused to do; and the Minister, in conveying this direction, requested Schneider to "have the complaisance not to enter into discussion on the merits of the case, the responsibility of which rests exclusively with himself." To this, on the 22nd of October, Schneider replied, that their only ground for refusing to convert the bonds in question, is that they have reason to think that they form part of a set of deferred bonds, amounting to £784 350, "in respect of which a distinct class of new bonds were created (lettered E and for £470,610) and deposited in the Bank of England." The deposit thus alluded to was made to provide against the contingency of certain bonds which were known to have been held by Lizard and Co. in connection with a former conversion having, "contrary to the intentions of the Government of Mexico," by any possibility found their way into circulation, and Schneider therefore suggested to the Minister that there were two ways of throwing light upon the matter, and of removing the difficulty.

On the day following the despatch of this reply to the Minister, Schneider received another communication from that personage, requiring them to consent to, and assist at, the delivery up, to certain persons nominated by the Mexican Government, of the bonds above-mentioned as deposited in boxes at the Bank of England, and of which boxes they (Schneider) hold one of the keys. To this a reply was immediately sent, that the "bonds in question were created for a special purpose, and that they were deposited in the Bank of England in the joint names of the Mexican Minister and of themselves (Schneider) as security that they should be applied to that purpose, if necessary, and no other," and that, under these circumstances, compliance was impossible.

The whole of the correspondence was afterwards transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee of Bondholders, who expressed unanimously their approbation of the course adopted. With regard to the question of paying a dividend on the new Stock to the extent of the amount they hold. Messrs. Schneider's reply, that for performing "the long and laborious operation of conversion, no other remuneration has been made, or is likely to be, save the ordinary uses of the funds already in hand, and they therefore decline to invest the amount in Exchequer Bills, as requested by the Committee of Bondholders."

The Foreign Market has been a little firmer during the week, although the

business transacted has been of the most limited description. Mexican Stock advanced on Thursday about 1 per cent., and the closing prices are nominally:—Brazilian Bonds, Small, 80; Chilian Bonds, Six per Cent, 89; Danish Bonds, 182 1/2; Mexican Five per Cent, Account, 13 1/2; Spanish Three per Cent, 28 2/3; Venezuela Bonds, Deferred, 10 1/2; French Rentes, Five per Cent, 115 1/2; 25c.; Exchange, 25f. 80c.; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cent, 12 Guild, 54 1/2; ditto, Four per Cent Certificates, 83 1/2.

The Share Market has advanced as regards the established lines, and continues tolerably firm. Prices, at closing, are for—Birmingham and Oxford Junction, 18 1/2; Buckinghamshire, 3 d; Caledonian, 36; Chester and Holyhead, 22 1/2; Eastern Counties, 16 1/2; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 48; Great Northern, 24; Ditto London and York, 3; Great South, and West, (Ireland), 22 1/2; Great North of England, 22 1/2; Ditto New £40, 55; Great Western, 103; Ditto Half Shares, 60; Ditto Quarter Shares, 17 1/2; Ditto Fifths, 24; Ditto New £17 1/2; Lancaster and Carlisle, 52; Lancashire, and Yorksh, 76; Do, Fifths, 6 1/2; Do, Thirds (Reg.), 4 1/2; Ditto (W. Riding Union), 24 d; Leeds and Bradford, 92; Leeds and Thirsk, 21 1/2; London and Blackwall, 5 1/2; Ditto New, No. 2, 12 d; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 43 1/2; London and North Western, 156 1/2; Ditto, Quarters, L and B, 29 1/2; Ditto, ditto, New, 9; Ditto £10, (M and B) A, 12; London and South Western, 55 1/2; Ditto New, £50, 29; Ditto, Thirds, 7 d; Midland, 111; Ditto £40 Shares, 42 1/2; Ditto £50 Shares, 9 1/2; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 84; Midland Consolidated Bristol and Birmingham, 6 per cent, 118; North British, 27 1/2; Ditto Half Shares, 12 1/2; Ditto, Quarters, 4 1/2 x; Ditto Extension, 4; Ditto Thirds, 24; Ditto, ditto, New, 9; Ditto, (M and B) A, 12; London and South Western, 55 1/2; Ditto New, £50, 29; Ditto, Thirds, 7 d; Midland, 111; Ditto £40 Shares, 42 1/2; Ditto £50 Shares, 9 1/2; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 84; Midland Consolidated Bristol and Birmingham, 6 per cent, 118; North British, 27 1/2; Ditto Half Shares, 12 1/2; Ditto, Quarters, 4 1/2 x; Ditto Extension, 4; 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THE NEW CLOCK-TOWER, AT EPSOM.

## NEW CLOCK-TOWER AT EPSOM.

EPSOM Salts and Epsom Races have kept in remembrance the olden celebrity of this centre of fashion. Time was when here were several taverns, reputed to be the largest in England; there were long rows of sedan chairs and numbered coaches in the street; a public breakfast, with dancing and music, every morning at the Wells; a ring, as in Hyde Park; evening assemblies, &c.; and, of such importance was the place, that, in the *London Gazette* of June 19, 1844, it was announced, "The Post will go every day to and fro betwixt London and Epsom, during the season for drinking the Waters."

In the reign of Queen Anne, 1711, one Mr. Toland printed a florid description of Epsom, in which he refers to several rural retreats, "so separated from each other by fields, meadows, hedge-rows, plantations, orchards, and the like, that they seem to be so many distinct little villages, uniting into one considerable town at the large street, in the middle of which stands the watch-house. *As I wish to see this a more stately edifice, I also long to have the whole space about it, from the New Parade down to the Spread Eagle, neatly pitched, considering that flint stones are so near, so plentiful, and so cheap.*"

At this period, several persons of rank and fortune resided in the town and neighbourhood; so that, after the fashion of Epsom had fled, it became a place of more permanent mark and character. Time wrought great changes in the street: the avenues of trees mostly disappeared; the large taverns were mostly let as private houses; and what was once a gay promenade, settled down into a quiet country town. During all these mutations, however, there remained the watch-house which Toland wished to see "a more stately edifice;" until a

short time since, the inhabitants of Epsom, with a spirit worthy of their famed town, resolved to remove what was considered a century and a quarter before so discreditable an object; and they determined to erect on its site the handsome Clock Tower, which we have shown completed in our illustration.

The new structure is, in its general proportions, taken from the Italian *campanili*. The detail is, however, original, and in elegant taste; the architects, Messrs. Butler and Hodge, having in the design not overstudied the rigid severity of precedent. The elevation will be about 70 feet. The base will be square in plan, and will be used as an engine-house; it will be of red and Suffolk brick, rubbed fair; and at each angle will be placed a lion bearing a shield charged with the arms of a nobleman resident in the neighbourhood. The shaft will be of square form, and will bear four clock dials, to be illuminated at night; surmounted by an open arched lantern, of not unipicturesque outline, terminated with a weathercock and Pegasus, the latter characteristic of the olden fane of Epsom. The heraldic lions on the base, the clock pediments, and other enrichments, will be sculptured in Caen stone; so that, in addition to graceful form, the polychromic effect, arising from the use of variety of colour in materials, has been carefully studied.

The foundation-stone of this new Clock Tower was laid yesterday week, by T. Tompson, Esq., of Epsom, the Chairman of the Building Committee. An elegant silver trowel was prepared for the occasion, and presented to the Chairman by the architects. After the ceremony, the party retired to a sumptuous dinner, prepared at the King's Head Inn. The laying of the stone was witnessed by several hundreds of persons; the town was very animated; and the event was celebrated out of doors, in the old English fashion, by a liberal distribution of strong ale.

Many of our readers will recollect the site of the Tower, close by the large pond in the centre of the town. It may not be so generally known that the water of the pond is favourable to the increase of gold and silver fish, which have frequently been taken out with a common cabbage-net.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENT WITH FRANCE.—It is understood, that, by the new arrangement, one mail is to leave London every day, at half-past eleven in the morning, to arrive in Paris the following morning, at half-past four o'clock; this mail is to be conveyed *via* Dover and Calais. The other mail is to leave London with the ordinary mails at half-past eight at night, and is to be conveyed *via* Dover and Boulogne, and will reach Paris at half-past ten the following morning. From Paris a mail will be despatched daily, at noon, to reach London at half-past four in the morning; this is to come *via* Calais and Dover. The other mail from Paris will leave at seven o'clock in the evening, and reach London at half-past ten on the following morning; this will be conveyed *via* Boulogne and Dover. This is a saving of about eighteen hours as compared with the time at present occupied, but it is not nearly the saving which may now be immediately accomplished.

COPYRIGHT OF ENGLISH SUBJECTS IN HANOVER.—By an Order of Council, which appears in the *Gazette* of Saturday last, dated the 30th of October, 1847, it is declared, in pursuance of powers granted by treaty between her Majesty and the King of Hanover, and, by the Act of Parliament relating to international copyright, that the authors, inventors, designers, engravers, and makers of books, prints, and certain other works of arts, first published in Hanover, shall have the privilege of copyright therein. And, by another Order of Council of the same date, it is further declared, that, from and after the 30th of October, 1847, in lieu of the duties of Customs, heretofore payable upon books, prints, and drawings, published at any place in the kingdom of Hanover, there shall be payable on books originally produced in the United Kingdom, and republished in Hanover, a duty of £2 10s. per cwt.; on books published or republished in Hanover, not being books originally produced in the United Kingdom, 15s. per cwt.; on prints and drawings, plain or coloured, published in Hanover, single, each, 1d.; bound or sewed, the dozen, 1d.



SIAMESE BOAT ON THE SERPENTINE.

SIAMESE OUTRIGGER ON THE SERPENTINE.  
THIS novel Boat is the invention of W. Austin Ashe, Esq., who has repeatedly tested its capabilities on the Serpentine, in Hyde Park.

It consists simply of two zinc tubes, of boat-like form, each 24 feet long, 4½ inches wide, and 4½ inches deep; connected collaterally by

semicircular braces, of 10 inches span; the water passing freely between the boat-like tubes, whilst the rower is seated in the manner shown in our illustration.

The principle has been found to combine great speed and lightness, with safety; but the zinc being too pliable to retain its shape, the inventor has commissioned Woolsencroft at Putney, to build a wooden

boat of the same design; and it is proposed to test its speed with a first-class outrigger on the Thames.

Without wishing to detract from Mr. Ashe's claim to the novelty, we may mention that a few days since, we noticed in the Model Room at Somerset House, the model of a Market Boat, such as is used at the Point de Galle, in Ceylon, in which the load is placed on two boats precisely as the rower sits in Mr. Ashe's Outrigger.

## PORTION OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDING OF ST. MARY OVERIES, SOUTHWARK.

THE fragment, of which the accompanying Cut is a representation, was brought to light a few days since by the fall of a quantity of masonry which had been constructed over it. This is probably a portion of the Norman structure founded by William Pont de l'Arche and William Dauncy in the year 1106.



REMAINS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY OVERIE, SOUTHWARK.

The building thus exposed, presents the appearance of part of a semicircular apsis, having a string-course, ornamented with an indented and billet moulding. The remains, by which the original fabric has been covered, consist of coarse rubble, and the portion of an arch, together with some clustered columns in the Early English style.

The circumstance of this large arch having been erected upon the Norman building, indicates that it could not have been intended as an entrance to the church; and this, together with the appearance of foundations which have been discovered contiguous, render it probable that the Early English remains are a portion of the interior of the Chapter House. Hence, down to the edge of the Thames, extensive foundations have been found, indicating the site of buildings probably belonging to the Monastery, said, on the authority of Linsted, to have been founded long before the Conquest, by Mary, the daughter of the ferryman, and afterwards converted by a noble lady named Swithin, into a College for Priests.

The portion of the Norman structure, recently discovered, is situated on the north side of St. John's Chapel, now used as the Vestry Room. The space between the wall of the Vestry Room and the outer surface of the apsis, is 15 feet, but what this consists of is not known.

The original building, judging by the visible portion of the apsis, has been smaller than the present Church, and appears to have occupied the northern part of the space which the latter now covers.

A few years ago, in digging for a family vault in the centre of the present choir, near the altar, it was necessary to cut through the basement of a very ancient wall, which appeared to have been the southern boundary of the original choir. About that time we were attracted by the appearance of an effigy, apparently that of a Templar, executed in oak, and of fine design, which lay neglected in the north transept of the Church. Our suggestion induced the churchwardens to have this figure removed, and placed in a niche, of which there are two lying in a position which the recent discovery seems to indicate as approximating near to the altar. We had an idea at the time that the above might be the tombs of the founders, and present appearances tend much towards strengthening such a supposition. The effigy was found to be proportionate to the niche where it now remains, and it is highly probable that, in this fine figure, we behold the representation of one of the knightly founders of the Norman Church—William Dauncy or William Pont de l'Arche.

The reckless indifference under which the late injudicious restoration of the nave was conducted has effected the entire destruction of some curious and beautiful portions of the earlier edifice. Among such manifestations, it is impossible not to regret the small Norman arch of very early character, which, previous to the desecration, stood in the wall of the north aisle. The beautiful west entrance, together with other portions of the building, of the fourteenth century, towards which the poet Gower contributed largely, have disappeared, and given place to a structure, which, compared to the eastern portion of the earlier building, to which it appended, cannot fail to suggest the notion of an architectural Mezenius. However, the former choir (the present choir occupying the site of the nave) and the beautiful Lady Chapel, together with the tomb of Gower, and some others of interest, render it still worth while turning our back upon the unsightly renovation, to inspect their details, and recal the time when England had few finer churches than St. Mary Overies.

## PARIS FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER.

We are this day enabled to present to our readers the Winter Paris Fashions, for the gay circles of the capital, the Champs Elysées, and the Boulevards; and these will be the favoured *toilettes* for the *soirée* and the ball, as well as for the family party, and the more quiet costume *de ville*.

First, the *Vanille* shade has appeared in robes of silk and satin, and is at the head of the favourite winter colours. It is made in silk, satin, and *laine*, for robes, *mantelets*, *chapeaux*, &c. Velvet is also much in request, generally black, from its best assorting with the ornaments and accessories of whatever colour it may be placed beside. The shades of *gros bleu* and *gros vert* are also very *recherché*. The favoured material, too, is *damas reps*, with black satin flowers, or large stripes. *Poplins*, with large squares of satin, are likewise in request; and for the morning, robes of black or grey cloth are worn. *Narcara* velvet is, also, in very *recherché* taste.

The dresses are made very high, joined at the *jupe* with rosettes of ribbon in front; with *volants* notched, or in a number of small points. The *jupe* is also often trimmed with *volants* in larger notches, edged with a small fringe. The sleeves are plaited, and are close to the wrist; are rounded in front of the arm, terminated by a small *ruche à la vieille*, and show a white muslin sleeve fitting to the wrist.

The form of the *chapeaux* continues round, and fastened low down; the *calotes* are, also, rounded; the most *recherché* materials are velvet, satin, and velvet *épinglé*; the favourite shades being the same as those of the robes.

Velvet flowers, of shades to match the *chapeaux*, are in high favour; bunches of grapes in velvet, by their graceful flexibility, are charming in *chapeaux* and *capotes*; and very small grapes are likewise worn in the hair at evening parties, or the theatre.

The *mantelets* are of velvet, generally trimmed with lace.

MR. VILLIERS, who has been elected M.P. for South Lancashire, has declined to sit for the county. Alexander Henry, Esq., has been proposed by the Liberals as a fit and proper candidate for the vacant seat.

A PLANTER'S WILL: TO THOSE ABOUT TO MARRY.—The *New Orleans Picayune* states that a Mr. Julien Poydras, of that city, the owner of six large plantations, and of a great number of slaves, died lately, his will directing the sale of his plantations, with their live (human) stock, but with the condition that the purchasers bind themselves to emancipate the slaves, with their increase, at the end of twenty-five years from the day of sale. After certain bequests to his friends and relatives, he wills "to the parishes of Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge 30,000 dollars each. The interest of this sum to be employed in giving a dowry to all the girls of the said parishes who may get married: the unfortunate to be always preferred."



PARIS FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER.

## THE PROFESSOR'S LADY.

BY BERTHOLD AUERBACH.

AUTHOR OF "VILLAGE TALES OF THE BLACK FOREST."

TRANSLATED BY MARY HOWITT

(Continued from page 332.)

THE two friends amused themselves excellently with Lorle, who always anticipated every wish, but, singularly enough, who presented everything with the left hand.

"No doubt, it is out of the right order," said Lorle, who observed that the Sub-Librarian was quite aware of this peculiarity, "that I should be so left-handed. I want to break myself of it, but I always forget."

"That matters nothing," said Reinhard quickly, but in a low voice, that they might not hear him in the outer room; "you do everything so magnificently." Added he, "and who can prove that the right hand is cleverer than the left? Your left hand is more skilful than many people's right, and it pleases me perfectly."

At these words, Lorle drew herself up, and a peculiar expression of majesty was in her look.

"Are there no musicians in the village?" asked the Sub-Librarian.

"Certainly there are."

"They shall play this evening to us or a dance; I will willingly pay a reasonable sum," said the Sub-Librarian.

"That cannot be," returned Lorle; "the magistrate is gone from home to-day and it is strictly forbidden to have any music without permission of the police. The regulations hang in your room up-stairs."

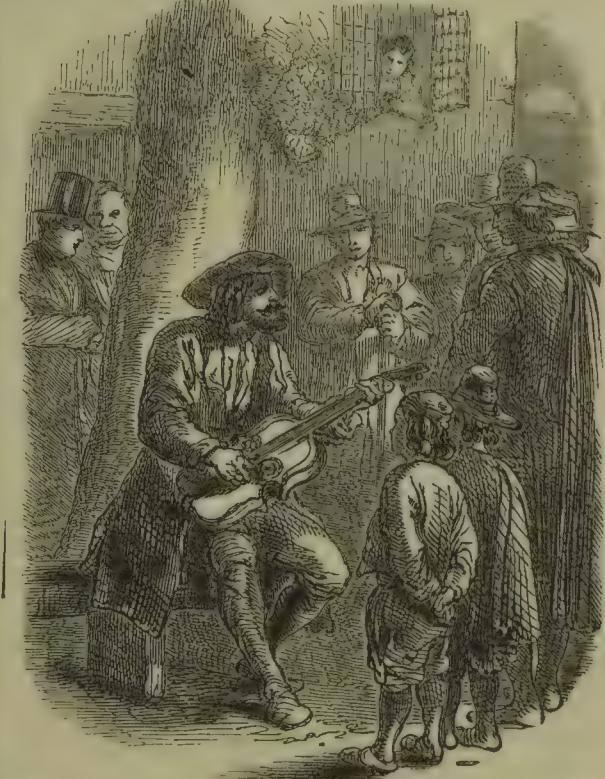
"Oh, Romance! where art thou?" exclaimed the Sub-Librarian; and Lorle replied, with great simplicity—

"We have not got that here, but there is a piano up-stairs which you can—"

The two friends burst into a peal of such violent laughter that they could hardly keep their seats. Reinhard was the first to express his laughter, for he saw, spite of the calm expression of the girl's face, how much she was affected; a pulse throbbed visibly in her eyelids, and a smile of deeply-wounded feeling was on her lips. She stood there with beating heart, and twisted the string of her apron so tightly round one finger that it cut into it; the physical pain, however, did her good—it repressed for a moment that of the soul. Reinhard commanded his friend in a stern tone to leave off "that foolish laughter." The Sub-Librarian made many apologies, and took a deal of trouble to explain to Lorle what was the meaning of his words. The girl cleared away the dinner-things quickly, and remained out of tune—as much out of tune as the piano which the Sub-Librarian went up-stairs to try.

He found it terribly inharmonious; there was scarcely a single string which had its proper tone; a great many people had thrummed upon it. "Yes," thought the Sub-Librarian, "when a human being once gets out of tune, then everybody, either for amusement or ill-nature, sets themselves more fully to complete the discord; and when they have completed their work, then the victim is left to stand forgotten in a corner." The Sub-Librarian saw in all this only an image of his own life; he thought only of himself. Fatigued by his morning ramble, and his excited feelings, he slept over the time of the afternoon service.

When Lorle came out of church in the afternoon she went with her brother at once to the valley-mill. Her father, as she knew, was not so easily to be roused, and he had promised to come afterwards with her mother. It is true that Lorle had thought this morning with pleasure about the strangers going with them, and she had felt a little pride about it; but that was now all over. Two hours later, after a deal of urging, the old married couple set out with the young men; and again the Sub-Librarian was in high spirits.



"Your watches here don't go truly," remarked he to the Landlord, "I set mine by the meridian at the library. You might set up a sun-dial here, somewhere on the new church which is now building. *À propos* of the subject, why did you not build your new church more upon the hill; the idea is so beautiful of people elevating themselves when they go to church?"

"Because we would have the church at hand," returned the Landlord, "have it ready for all occasions when wanted."

"You are right in that also," said the young man, "neither religion nor the church should be too much removed from daily life; they ought to be part and parcel of it. Ah, how early is the *gentiana cruciata* in flower," exclaimed the Sub-Librarian, interrupting himself and springing over the ditch to get the flower.

The Landlord looked after him and smiled; "that's a queer fellow" said he to Reinhard, "he will insist upon having the church set upon the hill, and, when one is not of his way of thinking, that's all right instantly, too; he is like the steward at the salt-works down there, who has a morning coat alike on both sides. He must be tremendously learned; what has he properly studied for?"

"First of all divinity," returned Reinhard, "and then many languages; he has now got a situation in a library, and there he has everything that he wants. He has firm opinions on all subjects, and is a thoroughly excellent man, that you may take my word for."

"Yes, yes, that I believe."

The Sub-Librarian again joined them; at every step he had to call Reinhard's attention to the beauty of the way; in one place was a group of trees, in another a vista, here was a gnarled branch, and "look" exclaimed he, "how gloriously the sunshine streams in there between the twigs and leaves!"

"Have done with your everlasting exclamations!" said Reinhard. The Sub-Librarian walked on quietly to gather another flower, which he dissected with his penknife.

"You must not be so short with him," said the Landlord to Reinhard, "he is indeed a happy man who has nothing more than others, and yet who finds pleasure everywhere, in the sun, in a flower, in a cockchafer, in everything."

At length they reached the demesne of the mill, and saw two young girls wandering hand in hand along the valley-meadow, singing. "Lorle!" cried the mother; the echo repeated the name. Lorle remained standing where she was, and Lorle sprang to meet the little party. The Landlord stood there with his legs wide apart and his hands on his sides, nodding rapidly with his head; and, in all this paternal pride, plainly said, "show me now a lass like that, either here or anywhere else!"

The family at the mill cordially welcomed Reinhard, and his friend also was kindly greeted, for here, where everybody lived as if they were related, our friends belong to us like members of the family. The table was spread under the walnut tree; here they all sat, and the old miller showed Reinhard how big his name, which he had cut two years before in the bark of the tree, had grown.\* The Sub-Librarian could not take his eyes from the old man, for whose countenance he afterwards found the appropriate expression; he called it an "afflicted face"; one of those noble, oval countenances, hollow-cheeked, with high-cheekbones and temples, and large blue eyes, full of humility and much suffering, which figure in the sorrowful stories of the German people.

"Yes," said the old man, threatening Reinhard with his finger, "the rascal, they tell me, has painted me in a particular picture; was that honest and right, think ye?"

"There's nothing in that," laughed the Host of the Linden Tree; he's welcome to paint me when and how he likes."

"Done!" exclaimed Reinhard, stretching forth his hand; but as he received no hand in return, he added, laughing, "it was only joke, there are no colours so fat as you are."

Everybody laughed, and the Miller enquired, "But now tell me truly what you made out of me?"

\* See the Illustration at page 332.

"Nothing improper," replied Reinhard. "At the time when I was making a sketch of the mill, as I was going away one evening, just when the sun was setting, your window was opened, and you looked out; you took the cap from your head, held it between your hands, and repeated aloud a prayer during the going down of the sun. It very much affected me, and I thus painted you; excepting that I placed you as standing at the half-door instead of at the window."

"There's nothing wrong in that," said the Landlady.

They all sat together tranquilly, and well pleased—and Reinhard confided to them, under the promise of secrecy, that he would make a present of an altar-piece to the new church. The Landlord offered him free quarters in his house as long as he should be occupied upon it; and the Miller would also do something, only he did not exactly know what.

A deep silence prevailed for a moment over the whole company—for after having spoken of these good and pious subjects, it was not easy to find another. The Sub-Librarian at length introduced one. The girls went backwards and forwards, placing supper on the table; the glasses were presented, but nobody helped themselves, because all their thoughts were on the church. Lorie evidently avoided the Sub-Librarian—and he, therefore, inquired from Vroni, whether there was any legend about the mill, and whether any water-fairies bathed themselves in the water.

"Yes," a fairy bathes herself in it," replied Vroni. Everyone tittered to himself. The Sub-Librarian, however, was not to be deterred from his object, and, turning to the old man, he asked him to relate the legend of the mill-dam.

The Miller said that those were all tales for children; but the Sub-Librarian urged him, and, therefore, he told him, that, during the Swedish war, a Swede wanted to carry off the Miller's daughter by force. "She runs into the granary, taking the ladder up after her: on this the Swede climbs up the mill-wheel; and, when he is on the top, there comes the little water-fairy, sets the mill a-going, and, splash! down goes the Swede and is drowned."

"It is a charming legend," said the Sub-Librarian.

The evening passed they hardly knew how. The two girls made themselves merry in all kind of ways, at the Sub-Librarian's expense: they fancied he was superstitious, and told him all sorts of ghost and goblin stories, especially Lorie, who related everything as if she herself believed it, in order that she might infuse as much terror into him as possible. He, however, was made quite happy by all this treasury of tales, and never once remarked the concealed trick.

"Your friend is just like a child, and yet he is such a learned man," said the Landlord to Reinhard, on their homeward way, and he said truly.

Stephen remained at the mill; Lorie walked beside her mother, and the Sub-Librarian accompanied them.

"Here one can see the past and the future," said he to the mother; "You must at one time, have looked like Lorie, and Lorie, some day, will be a handsome old lady like you." The Landlady smiled, and yet she did not like it, for the peasants, though they are never tired of talking of themselves, yet have a great dislike to be described or criticised. Our learned friend, however, began again. "But, tell me," said he, "how it happens that one seldom sees handsome old people in a village, and so very rarely handsome old women?"

"Ay, you see," returned she, "most people are poor and cannot afford to keep servants, and so, when a woman is ill, she must be up before perfect recovery, standing at the wash-tub, or working in the field. When people can't afford to be nursed and waited on, they get old before their time."

"You should set on foot a society to care for such poor women," said he; and he went on to describe how it should be; the Landlady made some objections, but ended by saying, "you are a very amiable man," and Lorie remarked "that the young girls might be useful in such a society."

It was twilight when they reached the village. Reinhard joined himself to a troop of young fellows, and went singing with them through the village. It was quite night when he came home; and then, springing up the stairs, he again rushed out. The Sub-Librarian sat in his chamber and noted down some of the legends which had been told him. Reinhard sat under the Linden-tree with his guitar on his knee, and all the men of the village gathered round him. First of all he played a gentle air. He was capable of touching that charming instrument so skilfully that, now melting away, now rejoicing, it spoke to every heart. The assembled group stood still and listened: it pleased them very much, and yet, when he had finished, they feared that he would do nothing but play.

"But you can sing, too: won't you give us a stave?" said Martin, speaking out the general wish.

Reinhard sang them a few short songs, which he had picked up in his travels. His voice resounded in the still night, and his juddling tones leapt up like balls of light into the starry heavens, and then dropped down again.

Lorie, who was just about going to bed, looked out at the window and listened. "He is a glorious fellow, after all: there is not another like him in the whole world," said she inaudibly to herself.

Reinhard sang:—

When comes the lovely eventide  
And tints the cherry boughs,  
The goatherd leads his lively goats,  
The milkmaid tends her cows;  
The woods are green with dewy leaves,  
And green with grass the leas,  
And when I on my milkmaid think  
No sports my mind can please.

The Sub-Librarian knew the song, and sang the bass. Lorie, however, closed her window at the commencement of the next verse, and lay down quietly in bed. Towards the end of that most naïve of popular songs, nearly all the young men joined in, and the last verse was repeated amid loud laughter.

The lad is not what once he was—  
No joy have I to day;  
The next time that I come, be sure  
I will not be said nay.  
With that he gave a lusty shout,  
The woods rang all around.  
The milkmaid's eyes overflowed with tears  
The while she heard the sound.

And that song was made by a Swiss shepherdess," exclaimed the Sub-Librarian with enthusiasm.

"Good night to your heart's-dearest, good night," said Reinhard, and went into the house. The young peasants sang the new song as they went down the village, and laughed amazingly.

"It has been a joyful day," said the Sub-Librarian to his friend. "How beautiful is music at night! Light is a rival of song; it likes it not. The dark night, however, cradles it softly in its tender arms. You understand perfectly how to go on with the people; one should impart to them the new revelations through song; in it all things are one; the highest and the lowest class of minds are again united in song." Reinhard made no answer, and his friend continued:—"You have explained to me this evening a law of the popular wanderings of song, or, I should say, the wandering of popular songs. One so often finds a folk's song of an entirely local character in a distant place; men like yourself are the butterflies who convey the fructifying flower-dust from one blossom to another. We have had to-day everything; a miller's daughter; a landlord's daughter; a painter; a musician; there only wants a sportsman, and then we get the complete romance."

"Have done with your romance; you have already had experience with it to-day."

"You ought to paint the company under the walnut tree," said the Sub-Librarian.

"You have promised not to be suggestive," said Reinhard.

"Forgive me. Good night."

Reinhard was busy arranging his workroom late into the night; he had something in his mind, and he wished to begin his work early the next morning.

(To be continued.)

#### COUNTRY NEWS.

**IMPORTANT DECISION.**—It has been recently decided in the County Court of Liverpool, that no charge can be made for shipping any British sailor on board a British ship; nor can any boarding-house keeper demand payment for any greater length of time than that for which a sailor may actually require accommodation. The system of boarding will in future be by the day, and not by the week.

**ROBBERY AT BATTLE ABBEY.**—On Tuesday night, or early on Wednesday morning, some burglars effected an entrance into the saloon of Battle Abbey, the residence of Lady Webster, and stole four gold snuff-boxes set with diamonds, a pair of gold bracelets, several gold lockets, and a quantity of valuable trinkets in gold and silver, with the whole of which they got clear off.

**SUDDEEN DEATH.**—On Saturday, Major Morrison, a retired officer, residing in 45 Rankin-street, Edinburgh, fell down in a fit of apoplexy, while walking along St. Leonard-street, and died almost immediately.

**MUNICIPAL HONOURS AT A DISCOUNT.**—The office of Mayor at Exeter is going a-begging. Mr. Snow, banker, who was unanimously elected last week, has declined to qualify. Two of the newly-elected Aldermen, Dr. Pennell and Mr. Miles, have followed the example of the Mayor.

The number of pupils in the School of Design in Birmingham, has received a considerable increase, and amounts at the present time to 466. The energies of the school are crippled by want of adequate resources, for it must be recollected that the amount of the Government grant is entirely dependent upon the local subscriptions.

**THE ROBBERY AT NORWICH.**—On Monday information was received by the metropolitan police, that upwards of 300 volumes of scarce and valuable works, and different articles of silver plate, and an immense quantity of plate, linen, &c., having the names and crests erased, had been found on the premises of Mr. Thurlott, horticulturist, of Norwich, committed to take his trial at Norwich Castle, charged with a robbery at the house of E. Farrer, Esq., Spore, Norfolk, the whole of which are supposed to be stolen.

At the Wolverhampton Police-office on Friday evening, Thomas Cavanagh was charged with being one of the parties implicated in the death of boatman named Leonard Thorpe, who was violently beaten at Dudley by some Irishmen on the morning of the 15th August last, and died in consequence of the injuries sustained. On the death of Thorpe, Cavanagh absconded, and was apprehended a few days since at Liverpool. Evidence was given proving Cavanagh to have been present at the disturbance, and in company with a man named Malone, who has been committed for the same offence; and in addition, Malone's statement was read, attributing the deceased's death to blows inflicted by Cavanagh, with a leg of one of the tables of the market stalls.—The prisoner was committed to take his trial.

#### MUSIC.

**OPERA AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.**—Miss Birch has arrived in town from Paris, having declined to make her *début* at the Académie Royale de Musique, in Paris, after the unhandsome treatment she has experienced at the hands of MM. Duponchel and Roqueplan. We refer to our Correspondent's communication elsewhere for the details of this disgraceful persecution of an English vocalist. It is now arranged that Miss Birch will appear at Drury-lane Theatre, in Mr. Balfe's new opera, founded on the ballet of "Lady Hennrile-te." Madame Dorus Gras has arrived in London, and the rehearsals for "Lucia," the opening opera of the season, with Madame Dorus Gras as Lucia, Mr. Reeves as Edgardo, and Mr. Whitworth Jones as Enrico, have commenced under the direction of Mr. Berlioz, the Conductor of the orchestra.

**SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.**—Mendelssohn's oratorio, "Elijah," will be repeated on Friday next (the 3rd of December). In addition to the sum of £50 subscribed by her Majesty and Prince Albert to the proposed monument to Mendelssohn, contributions have been received from Costa, Benedict, Sir G. Smart, Sir H. R. Bishop, &c.

**THE SINGING CLASSES.**—Mr. Hullah gives his first Concert on the 6th of Dec., at Exeter Hall, when Mendelssohn's 114th Psalm, "When Israel out of Egypt came," will be performed, as also Handel's "Acis and Galatea."

**CONCERT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MR. ROOKE.**—Her Majesty, in addition to a donation, has given her special patronage to this Concert, which will be given on Thursday next, the 2nd of December, at the Hanover-square Rooms. Sir H. R. Bishop and Mr. Balfe will be the Conductors. Little did the gifted composer imagine, when his opera of "Amilia" was produced, ten years before, with such *éclat*, that, on the anniversary, an appeal would be made on behalf of his widow and seven children.

#### FOREIGN MUSICAL NEWS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Wednesday.

Miss Birch has quitted this capital for London. It appears that on Wednesday last a notice was sent to her from the Académie Royale de Musique, to make her *début* last Monday, in the character of *Maiside*, in Rossini's "Guillaume Tell." Miss Birch's reply to this "call" in theatrical parlance, was her departure the same evening to Boulogne, on her way to England. It seems that she was engaged for three years at a rising salary, and that one of the principal conditions was, that she was to be provided with efficient masters for the language. On her arrival here she was assigned Professor Michelot, of the Conservatoire, and Emanuel Garcia, the brother of Malibran, and the teacher of Jenny Lind; Mme. Pauline Viardot, &c. Miss Birch soon found that the systems of MM. Michelot and Garcia were so opposed that what she acquired from one she had to unlearn for the other. M. Duprez was then appointed, but, after four lessons, he was withdrawn, and for weeks she was left without masters, until her *début* was fixed some weeks since. After the rehearsal, which was described in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of the 6th inst., not the slightest notice was taken of her until last Wednesday, when the "call" came for her *début*. Miss Birch felt that this was an insult, for if her accent was deficient, as it was pretended, at the rehearsal on the 28th of October, it could not have been improved by the 22nd of November, when no master had been sent in the interval to correct the alleged imperfection. Feeling that no justice was intended by the managers, she preferred, and, as I think, wisely, to withdraw. It is reported, but the fact seems almost incredible, that M. M. Duponchel and Roqueplan have commenced proceedings against Miss Birch in the courts of law, to recover damages for the breach of contract!

In the meanwhile, the Académie is without a *prima donna*; for Madlle. Masson, Madlle. Nan, Madlle. Dameron, &c., certainly do not merit the title. Splendid propositions have been made to, and declined by, Grisi and Mme. Pauline Viardot. Meyerbeer has been worried to try his influence to engage Jenny Lind, but the composer says that the Swedish Nightingale has a will of her own, and that the Directors must fight their own battle. Duponchel and Roqueplan relied on Alboni, but the great contralto, who will be here on the 28th, for her *début* on the 2nd of December, in *Arsace*, has proved unfaithful to the French Grand Opera, and has returned to the Italian lyric stage, her proper sphere of action. The rehearsals for Verdi's "Jerusalem," notwithstanding the number of horses in it, do not march *au galop*, and its production is again postponed until Friday next, the theatre being closed to-night for a final rehearsal. Certo and St. Leon leave, on the 1st of December, for Venice. Amongst the *dameuses* who are shortly to make their *débuts* at the Académie are Madlle. Leopoldine Brusil and Madlle. Marmet. Madlle. Brusil, although only seventeen, has been already *premiere danseuse* in Vienna, at the Imperial Theatre. She is very beautiful, and accomplished; and, in addition to her powers as a *mine*, is an animated declaimer of *danse*. She is of the Fanny Elssler school; and, on the *pointes*, is more wonderful than Frano.

The more I hear of music in Paris, the more do I feel the superiority of our performers in London. As if the decay of the Académie Royale de Musique and the Opéra-Comique was not sufficiently obvious, M. Adolphe Adam has constructed out of the Cirque on the Boulevards, a very beautiful theatre, and called it Opéra-National. I have witnessed three works, namely, "Les Premiers Pas, ou Les Deux Génies," in one act, the *libretto* by MM. A. Royer and G. Vaez, the music by Auber, Illeavy, Carafa, and A. Adam; "Gastibela, ou le Fou de Tolède," in three acts, by M. D'Eney and Cormon, music by M. Maillart; and the revival of "Aline Reine de Golconde," in three acts, by MM. Vial and Favierie, music by M. Berton. Now these three works have been carefully and tastefully mounted, but it might have been presumed that if a third lyrical theatre had been a necessity, that there was some composer left pining in neglect whose work would have startled the amateurs. But not anything more intrinsically tame and commonplace cannot be conceived than the new compositions. Berton's music, although nearly half a century old, sufficed to prove the poverty of the modern school. As for the execution of the operas, it was really beneath criticism, and *faulhöfen* of great length have appeared to prove the fact.

Mercedeira has arrived in Milan to mount his "Horatii et Curiatii," at the Scala.

I have seen a letter from Dresden, describing the rapturous reception given to Madame Pauline Viardot Garcia, last Wednesday night, in the German version of Rossini's "Il Barbiere." She was called for at the end of every *morceau*. In the singing lesson, she executed a Mazurka by Chopin, composed for the piano, with electrical effect, her divisions being most astonishing. As a finale to the opera, she gave the "Non più mesta," from "Cenerentola," with equal *furore*.

#### THE THEATRES.

##### PRINCESS'.

Glittering armour—picturesque scenery—correct and effective costumes, and scenes crowded with nobles and craftsmen of the middle ages, all helped towards the success achieved by Mr. Taylor's dramatic poem of "Philip Van Artevelde," much more than the piece itself; for it is anything but an acting play. True, as a poem, it is of the highest order; the language is manly and striking, and abounds in beauties; many of its lines have become household quotations; it may be read again and again with pleasure, and is recognised as one of our standard works. But more than this is wanted for dramatic success. The beauties over which we can pause to reflect in reading, are lost upon the stage in the anxiety of the ear to catch that which follows; the sympathies must be aroused by palpable action; and there must be, so to speak, a culminating interest, gradually condensing to that point upon which the curtain falls, and towards which every portion of the drama should form a step that could not be removed without breaking the chain of the plot. Now, "Philip Van Artevelde"—or, more properly, as much of that poem as has been adapted to the stage, is deficient in all these requisites. There is no more of action or situation in it, than might form an episode in an effective five-act drama. We admit that some of the scenes were very striking and loudly applauded. Of these, the revolt at the Stadt House; the battle-field; and the market-place of Bruges, were the most effective. But they were effective in themselves; that is to say, they might have been acted quite independently of the rest of the drama, and with the same result. An appeal to a picturesque mob, properly grouped, and trained to express restlessness and enthusiasm—more especially ending with the stabbing of the two unpopular delegates, as this one—is certain to excite the audience. So, also, the artistic hurrying about of many persons in bright steel armour, bearing lights, with alarm bells sounding, and other stirring accessories, will always call forth applause, which must not be taken for a tribute to the literary merits of the piece as a drama. More legitimate was the sensation roused by the interview of *Philip with Oco*, where he disarms, by his manly open-heartedness, the treachery of the two persons who were about to slay him. The scene, also, with that false noble, on the platform of the church steeple, was equally clever.

Fortunately, the time and place of Mr. Taylor's poem afford much scope for spectacle and scenic display; the *moyen age* dresses, and the picturesque views in Bruges and Ghent, are telling adjuncts in a drama.

An intelligent contemporary cites, from "Grattan's Netherlands," the historical incidents upon which the plot is founded. We give them, as the best method of telling it:—"Louis de Male (Count of Flanders) longed for the re-establishment and extension of his authority, and had the art to gain over to his views not only all the nobles but many of the most influential guilds or trades. Ghent, which long resisted his attempts, was at length reduced by famine, and the Count projected the ruin, or, at least, the total subjection of this turbulent town. A son of Artevelde started forth at this juncture, when the popular cause seemed lost; and, joining with his fellow citizens, he led 7000 resolute burghers against 40,000 feudal vassals. He completely defeated the Count, and took the town of Bruges, where Louis de Male only obtained safety by hiding himself under the bed of an old woman who gave him shelter."

Artevelde, the elder, we may add, was a wealthy brewer of Ghent, who, by his wealth, eloquence, and talents, acquired unbounded influence over his countrymen. Having compelled the Count of Flanders to take refuge in France, he formed an alliance with Edward the Third of England, and strove to transfer the Flemish sovereignty to the Black Prince. He was killed in a popular tumult, at Ghent, in 1345; and three years afterwards, his son, the hero of Mr. Taylor's dramatic poem, led the citizens against the nobles as above stated.

Mr. Macready's careful superintendence and experience is visible throughout the piece. Its production has evidently been a labour of love with him; and his interpretation of the character is one of his finest conceptions. The scene with *Oco*, (Mr. Cooper), and the two citizens was admirably played; no less effective was his interview with the "White-hood" leader, in the church tower. But in him all the interest is centred. Whenever he was on the stage the attention of the audience was fixed to the scene; but the other characters in the cast, which embraced nearly every performer in the theatre, walked about and talked, to very little purpose. The female interest is exceedingly weak; in fact *Adriana* (Miss Emmeline Montague), Artevelde's betrothed, and *Clara* (Miss Susan Cushman), his sister, appeared only created to carry on conversation in what are

technically known as "carpenter's scenes," whilst the great effects were preparing. What little they had to do was done well, but it was difficult to make anything of the parts. Next to Mr. Macready, Mr. Ryer as *Van den Bosch*, a White-hood leader, deserves some praise for his forcible impersonation of the sturdy chief; beyond this, no one rose particularly above his fellows.

The play was entirely successful; whether it will run and attract sufficiently long to cover the great expense that must have been incurred in its production, remains to be proved. The armour is of the costliest description; the dresses quite fresh; and real crowds of people are grouped upon the stage, until the notion of an actual mob is well conveyed: not such a vast one as those who have visited M. Dumas's *Theatre Héritage* may call to mind, when the troops and the rabble of the faubourgs fill the court of the Temple in the "Chevalier de Maisons-Rouges," but still enough to form a great improvement upon the handful of supernumeraries who generally pass for an indignant populace at our theatres. The scenery, also, by Mr. Brunning, is entirely new. Many of our ancient friends—interiors, and landscapes, and castles—must have been painted over, to our great joy; and their canvass is occupied by some admirable and picturesque views of the old cities of the Netherlands.

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## POSTSCRIPT.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 359, in Supplement.)

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY.

Earl SHAFESBURY sat as Deputy Speaker in the continued absence (from illness) of the Lord Chancellor.

Earl GREY, by command of her Majesty, presented the fourth, fifth, and sixth reports made by the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the distress in Ireland. Also a copy of the correspondence between the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the authorities of the Bank. With their Lordships' leave, he would take that opportunity of replying to a question put to him last night by a noble Baron whom he saw opposite (Ashburton). The question was, whether a note had not been addressed from the Bank on Thursday, in which they expressed a wish to reduce the rate of interest, which note was left unanswered until the following Monday. Having inquired into the matter, these were the facts of the case. On the Thursday, the Directors of the Bank, at their usual weekly meeting, came to a resolution that it was expedient to reduce the rate of interest upon advances; and the Governor and Deputy-Governor were instructed to communicate to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that it was the opinion of the Board that the rate of interest might be safely reduced. That communication was made verbally, on the Thursday evening, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer; no formal communication was made, and no formal answer was given. On the following Monday, the Directors of the Bank came to the determination to act upon their resolution of Thursday; they had received no formal answer, but they were perfectly aware that the Government saw no ground for their official interference. They had been told that it was a matter which ought to be determined by the Directors, and by them only; and it was in the exercise of their own discretion that they had adopted and acted upon the resolution of Thursday, upon the Monday following.

Lord ASHBURTON: As he understood it, in point of fact, the Directors communicated their resolution to the Bank that the discount should be eight per cent, should advances be made beyond the law. The moment the Bank became in a position to render any violation of the law no longer necessary, then, of course, the letter ceased to have any effect. It was not formally withdrawn until Tuesday, the day after the rate of interest had been reduced, by an exercise of the discretion of the Directors alone.

Lord ASHBURTON: If it were so, then, of course, no blame attached to the Government: but he must say that it was only shifted to the shoulders of the gentlemen at the Bank.

Earl GREY believed the Directors had very good and valid reasons for postponing the action of their resolution. It might be an error of judgment, but if so, they were upheld in it by those who were best able to form an opinion upon the subject.

In answer to a question from Lord BROUGHAM,

Earl GREY said he hoped Lord Lansdowne would be sufficiently recovered to move for the Committee to inquire into the causes of commercial distress on Thursday next; and he thought the effect of railway investments upon the money market would not be excluded from their cognizance. Some separate inquiry as to what ought to be railway legislation in future might be necessary, and would be entered into in the other House.

The Library Committee was re-appointed upon the motion of the Duke of Richmond, and the House adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY.

The Speaker took the chair to-day shortly before four o'clock.

Mr. P. Miles and four other members took the oaths, and subscribed the Parliamentary roll.

Petitions on various subjects were presented; amongst them were several against the admission of Jews to Parliament.

Mr. J. O'CONNELL presented three petitions from the Roman Catholic Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, praying for the removal of all civil disabilities affecting Roman Catholics.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.—Mr. LABOUCHERE moved for the appointment of a Select Committee, to consider whether any and what improvement can be adopted in the mode of conducting private bills; viz.:—Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Strutt, Lord G. Somerset, Mr. F. Baring, Sir W. Heathcote, Mr. Hume, Mr. Wilson Patten, Mr. Wrightson, Sir R. Ferguson, Mr. W. Miles, Mr. Loch, Sir J. Y. Buller, Sir G. Clerk, and Mr. Orde. He thought the Chairman of Ways and Means ought to be relieved from some of the onerous duties he had now to perform in respect to private bills. (Hear, hear.) On the present occasion, however, he did not venture to make any suggestions; he wished the Committee to be appointed to inquire into the whole subject.—Mr. HUME cordially seconded the motion.—After some slight discussion, the motion was agreed to, and the members of the Committee appointed.

THE ADDRESS.—Lord M. HILL appeared at the bar, and read her Majesty's most gracious answer to the Address on the Royal Speech. Her Majesty said, "I have received with satisfaction your loyal and dutiful Address, and I rely with confidence on your co-operation with my endeavours to advance the social condition of my people, and promote the welfare of all classes of my subjects."—Mr. BLACKALL gave notice that, on Tuesday next, he should ask a question of the Chancellor of the Exchequer relating to the £8,000,000 loan granted to Ireland.

Mr. FRENCH gave notice that on Monday he should ask what steps the Government intended to adopt with respect to monies advanced to Poor-Law Unions in Ireland.

CHESTER ELECTION.—A petition complaining of an undue return for Chester was presented and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. BAILLIE gave notice that, on an early day, he should move an Address to the Crown relating to the Slave-Trade.

In answer to a question from Mr. DRUMMOND, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER was understood to say that he intended to propose some alterations in the mode of collecting the malt duty.

Lord J. RUSSELL moved that the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Monday.—Agreed to.

## RAILWAYS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose, pursuant to notice, to move for leave to bring in a bill to extend the time for the purchase of land, and the completion of railway works. The right hon. gentleman commenced by pointing out the usual course of the employment of the floating capital of the country, in agriculture and commerce, and the construction of great public works, in which, of course he included railways. He then pointed out the pressure and embarrassment that had arisen in the money market, owing to the increased demand that had taken place for that capital of late years, for the construction of railways. After reviewing the use and progress of railways, he observed that, in 1826, Parliament had sanctioned works to the amount of £1,500,000; from 1836 to 1837, it was upwards of £36,000,000; but, in consequence of the great distress that existed, comparatively little progress was made with railways till 1844 and 1845, when no less a sum than £74,000,000 was sanctioned. The House and the public were aware of the mania that existed in the autumn of the latter year for railway speculations; and some estimate might be formed of it, when he stated that 800 plans were deposited with the railway department of the Board of Trade; and in the year 1846, the amount actually sanctioned by Parliament was no less than £132,000,000; making a total of £286,000,000; two-thirds of which had been sold within the three previous years. In the year 1847, an additional sum of thirty-eight millions was sanctioned by Parliament. Of the sums already voted, there remained to be expended a hundred and forty-five millions, in addition to the thirty-eight millions sanctioned in 1847. The actual expenditure, commencing from the year 1840, was as follows:—In 1841, the sum expended in railway works was £1,407,000; in 1842, it was £2,980,000; in 1843, it was £4,435,000; in 1844, it was £6,100,000; in the first half of the year 1845, it was £3,500,000; and in the second half of that year, £10,600,000; making in all £14,100,000; in the first half of 1846, the amount was £9,800,000; and in the last half of that year, £26,675,000, so that in the year 1846, less a sum than £36,475,000. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.") In the first half of the year 1847, the amount expended was £25,700,000; and, according to the estimates that had been made by the Board of Works, the amount required up to the close of the present year, including the purchase of land, would be little short of £65,000,000. Now, it would appear that, in December, 1846, the pressure for money became extremely severe, and pressed in an unexampled manner upon the available capital of the country; the demand for money for the construction of railways had increased out of all proportion; and when they took into account the embarrassments among the commercial and manufacturing interests, it was evident that some interference was called for on the part of the Legislature. Strong remonstrances and representations had been addressed to himself and the members of the Government, and much more stringent measures were suggested than the Government had thought fit to adopt. (Hear, hear.) They had been urged to put an instant stop to railways in course of construction; but the difficulties of anything in the shape of compulsory enactments were very great, and, therefore, they had not adopted them. When they considered the large number of labourers which were employed on these works, the engagements that had been entered into with manufacturers of all descriptions, they had come to the conclusion that it would be excessively injudicious to attempt any compulsory measure. The object of the bill which he was about to propose was to give railway companies the power of extending the time for purchasing land and completing railway works in course of construction. With regard to parties whose land was about to be purchased, he proposed the introduction of a clause giving them a claim for compensation in consequence of the postponement of the purchase. The amount would be assessed in the same manner as the value of the land. With regard to works that were not commenced a stronger course was taken, although it would still be voluntary. He proposed, with regard to this class of railways, to prohibit the directors from completing the purchase of any land or commencing any railway works without having first obtained the consent of a certain proportion of the shareholders. In these cases he proposed that the directors should obtain the sanction of three-fourths of the shareholders. It was also intended to appoint a committee to con-

sider all new railway bills that might be submitted to the House, to consider the mode in which they should be allowed to go on. It was obvious that there were many bills which circumstances might render it necessary to pass, but he trusted the House would see the importance and necessity of not sanctioning any bill requiring the expenditure of a large amount of capital. He thought they ought to take some blame to themselves for the large number of railway bills that had actually been passed—(hear, hear); but hon. gentlemen would bear in mind that nothing was so difficult during the railway excitement that prevailed as to check the progress of these measures. He believed that, so far from receiving any opposition from the railway companies, the course he was about to pursue would receive their cordial support and co-operation. He had communicated with the chairmen of the leading railway companies, and had found them most anxious to co-operate with him. The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving for leave to bring in his bill.

COLONEL SITHORP had often felt it his duty to oppose the system of railways of which he considered a gross and unjustifiable encroachment upon the rights of private property, and this bill proposed to extend the powers of spoliation of these companies for three years longer.—Landowners would be almost justified in having recourse to the *argumentum baculum* against those spoliators, who thus attempted to introduce the despotic practices of Russia in this free realm of England. He denied that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was correct in saying they were all to blame for sanctioning these railway speculations: he (Col. Sithorp) was not to blame; he had always protested against railways and those who encouraged their construction. He did not oppose the introduction of this bill, but he asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say to the railway companies, when you propose to take land, you shall either pay for it within a certain time or you shall give it up altogether.

Mr. ELLIOT protested against being included in the category of those who, foreseeing the evils likely to arise from the abuse of this system, had not proposed some remedy. He had proposed to the right hon. gentleman opposite, during his Government, to limit the power of these companies to raising capital by their shares, and to deprive them of the power of borrowing capital to the amount of one-third of their capital subscribed. It was the duty of that House to have considered at that period the propriety of applying some limitation to these powers of borrowing money. This was, he admitted, one cause of the existing difficulties, but, like the speculation in South American mines formerly, it was only one symptom of inordinate credit. The great evil of this system was the competition to which the trader was exposed in the Money Market with these railroad companies—a competition which, by raising the rate of interest, had inflicted the greatest injury upon trade. He always regretted that these companies had conferred upon them the power of borrowing money. He thought the measure now introduced was almost the only measure that could be now proposed; but he hoped the same measure would be adopted to limit the powers of these companies as to the borrowing of money, and to protect the trader against the competition of these gigantic companies; and, as these companies applied to the House for extraordinary powers, it was the duty of the House so to limit those powers as to take care that they should not interfere with the interests of those who were engaged in the ordinary transactions of business, and who ought not to be exposed to be crushed by these gigantic monopolies.

Mr. HUDDSON reminded the right hon. gentleman the member for Coventry of the support which he had given to a bill for connecting by railway the town of Coventry with the little town of Southend, a bill which had been rejected by the other House of Parliament. He would not say whether or not the powers of borrowing possessed by the railway companies were too large or not; it was a subject for discussion. None of the companies with which he was connected had nearly borrowed the amount they were authorised to borrow. But, surely, the poor man who had accumulated a few hundred pounds, and wished to invest it, was entitled to be considered as well as the borrower; and, if they did not permit them to invest their savings in British railways, they would invest them in foreign railways. The distress was owing to the large importation which had taken place of foreign produce. Railways were constructed solely of British produce; and, although they employed a large number of the poor, and added to their comforts, yet the money was expended solely in British produce. The Manchester merchants, instead of calling on the railway shareholders to stop their calls, should have called upon the merchants importing foreign produce to curtail their acceptances. Those acceptances took away the gold; but the railways employed the poor, and relieved the rates. Had any railway stopped payment, or asked Government for relief? While his railway shares had been at a premium, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's stock had been at a discount. He had foreseen that the importation of corn would cause a drain of bullion, and he had undertaken no new works, although he had given up none undertaken. He did not object to the bill; it would be of no use to him, although it might be of service to some, and would please the public. With regard to the causes of the distress, he trusted that the Government would put the Bank Charter upon such a footing that the time should never again occur when it would be impossible to raise money upon Exchequer Bills. Just before the Government had issued their letter to the Bank, Exchequer Bills were absolutely undiscountable.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then moved the appointment of the Select Committee on Railway Bills for this Session.—Agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Sir J. PAKINGTON moved that until the Christmas holidays, Orders of the Day shall on every occasion have precedence of Notices of Motion. He brought forward his motion without having had any communication with the Government, and without intending the slightest disrespect to those hon. gentlemen who had motions on the paper. There were no notices on the paper which would suffer by postponement. The high crimes and misdemeanours of the Foreign Secretary might, without great public inconvenience, be suffered to remain unnoticed until the usual time of the commencement of the Session. Parliament had been assembled on an emergency, and he thought that the House had better confine its attention to important public matters until after Christmas.—Mr. BANKS opposed the motion as most unprecedented, and, as one that, at all events, should be postponed until the greater part of the members were in town. At all events, proper notice of such a motion ought to be given. He had a motion in the paper which did not admit of postponement. He intended to propose that no appointment of President of the Poor Law Commission should take place, but that the duties should be performed by the Lord Privy Seal, who seemed to have nothing to do, as he was absent in Italy. He should oppose the motion.—Mr. HUME had never heard a more unconstitutional proposition, and he should oppose it; and he regretted that, at the end of the Session, orders of the day had been permitted, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to have precedence of motions.—Mr. BROTHERTON considered that the motion could not be passed without general assent. He believed it would be for the public convenience that it should pass, or the House would be assembled until Christmas and do nothing.—Mr. EWART thought it would be exceedingly inconvenient that this motion should pass. Lord JOHN RUSSELL entirely agreed in opinion with the hon. gentleman opposite that, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, notices of motion should have precedence, and he would therefore recommend the hon. Bart. to withdraw his motion; at the same time he would press upon the members having notices on the paper that it would be exceedingly convenient to have the public business disposed of before Christmas, so as to obviate the necessity of only adjourning at Christmas for a week. The motion was then withdrawn.

SLAVE TRADE.—On the motion of Mr. HUME, various returns connected with the state of the Mauritius and the West Indian colonies, and copies of correspondence relating to the Slave Trade, were ordered.

RAJAH OF SATTARA.

Mr. HUME moved for copies of all documents referred to by Major Carpenter, in his letter of May 25, 1846, to the Secretary of the Governor-General of India, which confirmed the Major's belief in the Rajah's innocence. The hon. gentleman complained that everything which inculpated the Rajah had been laid before the House, but that all documents tending to prove his innocence had been withheld. For himself, he believed firmly that the Rajah was guiltless of all the charges which had been brought against him. He asked the Government if they would give an opportunity of trial to that unfortunate Prince, who had been oppressed most unjustly, and of whose innocence Major Carpenter, an officer in the Company's service, had expressed his most unhesitating belief. (Mr. Hume) had at first believed the Rajah was guilty—he was now convinced he was innocent; and he would never cease his exertions until he had obtained justice for this injured Prince, and the only justice the Rajah demanded was an opportunity of proving his innocence. He hoped the Government, if there was any member of the Government present—(a laugh, occasioned by the fact of Mr. Milner Gibson being the sole occupant of the Treasury bench)—would not oppose this motion; and he must express his surprise that no member of the Cabinet had thought it his duty to be present after the notice which had been given.

Mr. EWART seconded the motion, and complained of the efforts which had been made to prevent the agents of the Rajah from reaching this country.

Mr. CORNEWALL LEWIS gave the hon. member the fullest credit for the motives which had induced him to bring this question forward. He should confine himself solely to the question before the House; and he must protest against being considered as acknowledging the innocence of the Rajah by so doing. Major Carpenter had only become acquainted with the Rajah after his condemnation and his removal to Benares, 1,000 miles from Sattara, and had no means of judging of the Rajah's guilt or innocence, except from the perusal of the documents which were already in possession of the House. His answer, therefore, was, that the Government saw no reason whatever to alter the decision which had been come to in the case of the Rajah of Sattara. All the documents alluded to, except the letter of Major Carpenter and that of the Rajah, were before the House; and, as the letter of the Rajah had never been officially communicated, of course no copy of it could be produced. He would not go into the discussion of the case of the Rajah of Sattara, but his impression as to his guilt or innocence was directly contrary to that of the hon. member for Montrose.

Mr. GEORGE THOMSON had devoted a large portion of the last seven years to the consideration of the case of the Rajah of Sattara, and was more intimately acquainted with the documents in this case than any other individual; he had also had personal communication with the Rajah, and he therefore hoped he might be permitted to state that there was nothing he believed more firmly than the innocence of the Rajah of Sattara. Had not the papers now sought for come into his (Mr. G. Thompson's) possession, they would have remained for ever in oblivion. No doubt, due discrimination had been exercised in appointing Major Carpenter to take charge of the deposed Prince. Major Carpenter had been twenty-six years in the service; and, although he had been recruited from the opinion he had given, he had been permitted to retain his post, and that was a proof that there was no reflection whatever on his character, and his opinion of the Rajah's innocence was entitled to the more attention, because when the Rajah was first intrusted to his care he was convinced of the Rajah's guilt; but constant communication with, and watching of, the Rajah, had convinced Major Carpenter that no man was more candid—no man less of an intriguer—no man more innocent of the offences with which he was charged than this unfor-

nate Prince, the Rajah of Sattara; and in the answer of the Governor-General there was nothing from which any idea could be gathered as to the belief of the Governor-General in the guilt or innocence of the Rajah. Major Carpenter might have been guilty of a fault against official etiquette in offering an opinion, but it was a fault which would be forgiven him in this House, in this country, and at that tribunal where all would be decided by the principles of justice rather than by the principles upon which India was governed. He would not now go into the question, but he would, on another occasion, prove to the House that the Rajah had been the victim of a conspiracy, and had been convicted upon forged documents and perjured testimony.

Sir J. W. HOKE, in reply to the charge of conspiracy brought against those concerned in the conviction of the Rajah, would merely state that Sir R. Grant, and two successive Governors of Bombay, and the whole Council of Bombay, unanimously came to a conclusion as to his guilt; to the same conclusion came Lord Auckland, the Governor-General, and his Council; and to this conclusion came the majority of the authorities at home. He did not impute improper motives to those who maintained the Rajah's innocence; but surely those who maintained a contrary opinion. He complained of the colouring which had been attempted to be given to this case of Major Carpenter's. What would have been thought if Sir Hudson Lowe had taken upon himself to lecture the Government of the day upon the iniquity of detaining Napoleon at St. Helena? Major Carpenter had no means of forming any opinion as to the Rajah's guilt or innocence; he had no right to offer any opinion on the subject, and in doing so he was guilty of a breach of duty. When the statements made before the Court of Proprietors by Miss Thomson as to Major Carpenter's conversations with the Rajah, were referred to that officer, he declared that the greater portion of them were purely imaginary, and that he had never made any such propositions to the Rajah as those alluded to by the hon. member for Montrose.

Mr. ANSTY protested against the doctrines laid down by the hon. Baronet. It was incorrect to state that Major Carpenter had given a broad denial of the correctness of the conversations alleged to have been held with the Rajah. On the contrary, Major Carpenter had been most guarded in what he stated; and all the essential assertions of the Rajah remained uncontradicted. He denied that it was the duty of Major Carpenter to obey the orders of his superiors when they were founded in injustice; on the contrary, it was his duty to disobey them; and he could only regret that Major Carpenter had apologised for his disobedience; and he contended that, in the peculiar situation in which he was placed, it was his duty to communicate his opinion as to the innocence of the Rajah of Sattara.

Mr. WAKLEY, from the speech of the hon. Baronet, was of opinion that the Rajah had been condemned, but not tried; he had had a Judge, but no Jury. As the motion had been acceded to by the Government, he felt that all debate was a loss of time: when the papers were produced, the question would come properly before the House. Major Carpenter had been guilty of no breach of duty; he had made a secret communication, and it was no fault of his that the communication had fortunately become public. He was sorry to see the ex-Poor-Law Commissioner appearing in the character he did; he, at least, ought to have had some feeling for an accused man. It was fortunate for the Rajah that there were no Poor-Law Guardians in Benares, to carry out the behests of the ex-Poor-Law Commission; or the Rajah might find himself reduced to subsist on three pints of gruel and sixteen ounces of bread a-day.

The motion was agreed to.

RAILWAY BILL.—The Railway Bill was brought in and read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Friday.—The House then adjourned.

## EXPLOSION OF THE "CRICKET" STEAM-BOAT.

Yesterday (Friday), Henry Robert Haismann was indicted for manslaughter, in having caused the death of Thomas Shead, by criminal negligence in the discharge of his duties as engineer of the *Cricket* steam-boat.

Mr. Bodkin stated that this prosecution was instituted by the Crown, in consequence of an explosion which took place on board the vessel of which the defendant was at the time engineer, on the 27th of August last, at a pier in the River Thames. On that occasion, several persons were injured, and four lost their lives. After an investigation had been made into the circumstances of the case, by order of the Government, and a verdict of "Manslaughter" had been returned against the prisoner by a Coroner's Jury, it was determined on the part of the Crown to put the prisoner upon his trial for one of the four cases, and that of Shead, the call-boy, was selected. The learned gentleman then went into a statement of the facts with which the frightful occurrence was attended, and which have been already fully laid before the public. It would be for the jury to say whether those facts showed that the prisoner had been guilty of culpable negligence, and thereby caused the death of the deceased.

The prisoner was defended by Mr. Sergeant Wilkins and Mr. Clarkson.



by Sir Charles Young, the Garter King at Arms; the Duke of Norfolk, as Hereditary Earl Marshal; and Lord Willoughby de Eresby, as Lord Great Chamberlain.

The swearing in of Peers was again resumed, and continued up till near five o'clock. Amongst the Peers then sworn were the Duke of Buccleuch, the Bishop of Exeter, the Earl of Suffolk, Lord Denman, &c.

After a short interval, the woolsack was again resumed by the Earl of Shaftesbury at five o'clock, when upwards of 100 Peers had assumed their places, the greater majority present having seated themselves on the Opposition side of the House. Amongst those in the House were the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Buckingham, the Duke of Richmond, Earl Straibroke; Lords Stanley, Lyndhurst, Brougham, &c.; together with all the Ministers having seats in the House, with the exception of the Lord Chancellor.

The mover of the Address, the Earl of Yarborough, was in his place, attired in the full dress of a Deputy Lieutenant (red); while Lord Elphinstone the seconder, appeared in a blue uniform.

The Earl of Yarborough then rose and said—My Lords, I can assure your Lordships that although this is not the first time I have had occasion to address an assembly something similar to that of your Lordships, still I feel so inadequate to the task I have undertaken, that I am constrained to ask that indulgence which your Lordships, I have no doubt, are in the usual habit of kindly affording to members who address your Lordships for the first time. I trust your Lordships will feel, as I do, that this is an occasion when one attempting to address your Lordships must labour under some difficulties; for there are subjects touched upon in her Majesty's most gracious Speech, which require to be touched upon, as I think most delicately, by the person who has to move an Address in reply to that most gracious Speech, if, as I am most anxious should be the case upon the present occasion, he desires that the Address should receive the unanimous sanction of your Lordships' House. Whatever opinion noble Lords may have formed upon the conduct of her Majesty's Government upon a late occasion, every one must feel that, considering the circumstances in which the commercial affairs of the country were placed, the giving the power to advance further capital to the country was the best step which could have been taken. The commercial distress was greater than had existed in the country for a very considerable period, and I sincerely trust the measures of her Majesty's Government will alleviate the distress consequent upon such a derangement in the accustomed stream of commerce. Many of your Lordships may differ as to the cause of that distress. Some may probably attribute it to the effect of a recent measure which received the sanction of the Legislature, more commonly known as Peel's Act. Some may attribute it—and with those I shall certainly agree, for I think it is manifestly the case—to the great amount of money required to purchase food for the country during the past year. No doubt there have been other causes, and for some of them the Parliament itself does not stand wholly free from blame—the Legislature lent itself to the great encouragement of railroads. Such an amount of money was sanctioned to be raised for the purposes of those works as could not be drawn from the legitimate profits of the country. And, my Lords, contemporaneously with the great amount of money required for the purchase of food, came the expenditure sanctioned for railways, and it greatly exceeded the abilities of the country. Upon referring, my Lords, to these returns which are an authority upon the subject, I find that the quantity of foreign grain imported this year, up to the 10th of November, was 10,898,000 quarters. (Cheers from Lord Stanley and his friends.) I can understand the cheer of the noble Lord. The noble Lord supposes that this large importation was in consequence of the measures recently passed for temporarily abolishing the duty upon the importation of foreign corn. But I think your Lordships will agree with me, that the immediate cause of such a large importation was the failure of the potato crop in Ireland, and also the deficiency of the harvests in this country in 1845 and 1846. Now, my Lords, suppose for a moment that there had not been any alteration made in those laws, I think the noble Lord (Stanley) will agree with me, that it would have been impossible for any Government to have maintained them while such an extent of misery and distress existed both in this country and in Ireland as we had unfortunately experienced during the past year. Well, my Lords, that was the quantity imported in 1847; there was also a very large quantity imported in 1846—it amounted to 4,770,000 quarters. This large importation had to be paid for; and, contemporaneously with this large expenditure, the Parliament, in the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, sanctioned a number of railroads, to carry out which required such an amount of money as the country could not possibly pay from its legitimate sources. In 1845, no less than 104 railway bills received the sanction of the Legislature, requiring a capital of £59,000,000 sterling. In 1846, 240 bills were passed, requiring an estimated capital of £132,617,000—£28,000,000 of that sum was transferred capital; still there was a power given to raise in that year no less than £125,500,000. The consequence of all that was, I believe, that parties were of opinion that they might make rapid fortunes in those concerns, and transferred their capital from business to those speculations, not intending to invest their money in them, but in hopes of speedily getting it back again with large accumulations. The natural effect of all this was, that trade was very materially crippled. These, my Lords, are not the only causes, nor probably nearly the whole of the causes of the misfortune which has recently befallen the country, but, in my opinion, they are some of them; and I think when her Majesty's Government found that the embarrassments of trade and commerce were so great—so extreme that a panic seemed to prevail throughout the whole of the commercial world—not because there was no money in the country, but because people were afraid to invest it—in my opinion, the Government were not only justified, but it was their duty to take upon them the responsibility of allaying the panic in almost the only way it could be done—viz., by allowing more money to be issued for the purposes of trade than was allowed by the law. (Cheers from Lord Stanley.) That power having been given, it is satisfactory to find that the necessity to act upon it did not arise, thereby clearly proving that it was a mere panic, and not a real want of capital the country was suffering under. The noble Lord then proceeded to say, in order to demonstrate what he had stated, that in consequence of the communication which had been made by the Government to the Bank of England, that the demand for bullion had decreased from £1,994,000 on the 23rd of October, to £1,605,000 on the 25th, being a decrease of 389,000; and, therefore, he thought that the commercial distress which prevailed was not altogether for want of money, because the proposition which was at that time made by the Government had the effect of restoring great confidence in the country, without violating the Banking Act; and he trusted that trade would soon assume its usual channel, and that those interests which had suffered from various causes would speedily be restored to their state of prosperity. It was a source of great satisfaction to him, as he was sure it must be to every one of their Lordships, to know that the pressure upon commerce, and the distress of the manufacturing population of the country, had occurred at a season when there was an abundant harvest—(hear, hear, hear); and he trusted that if we should be blessed with such another harvest next year, we should find the condition of the people of this country generally improved. It was with great regret he learned from her Majesty's Speech the melancholy state of affairs in Ireland, and that there was likely to be a recurrence to some extent of the distress which prevailed in that country at the commencement of the present year. And he was sure that while the British Parliament would always be willing to adopt measures to relieve the Irish people, it would also readily support the Government in adopting means to provide for a willing obedience to the law in Ireland. He trusted that the Government would propose measures for that country not harsh, but measures which would be effective for the protection of life and property, and which would have the effect of securing justice to all classes of the people. It was melancholy to see the morbid feeling which existed against the landowners in Ireland, on the part of those who had possession of the land and refused to pay any rent for it. They committed murder with seeming impunity, for they struck a terror in the minds of those whose evidence could alone bring them to justice. Every person must admire the firmness and determination with which the Lord-Lieutenant had manifested during his short government of Irish affairs; and he was certain that their Lordships would assure her Majesty that they were ready to assist her Government in carrying measures which for many years they had been anxious to carry, and but for an organised system of opposition they would have carried, to repress crime and to produce peace and tranquillity in that unhappy country. During the past year, 10,000,000 of money were granted to employ the people on public works in Ireland, and of that sum he believed £8,000,000 had been expended. But while they were willing to grant pecuniary assistance to the people, let him again ask their Lordships to agree in assuring her Majesty that ample provision would be made for the exigencies of that country. Their Lordships, he had no doubt, would join with him in thanking her Majesty for offering her aid and influence for the purpose of putting an end to the state of disturbance which unhappily existed in Switzerland; and also for the assurance that the peace of Europe was not likely to be disturbed. They would likewise, he was sure, view with satisfaction the conclusion of the Royal Treaty, that another country was willing to assist in putting an end to the abominable Slave Trade; and he trusted that the noble Lord at the head of the Colonial Department would, by some means, be able to prevail with the Government to grant an additional assistance in the putting down of the traffic in slaves. Her Majesty had recommended to Parliament the consideration of the Navigation Laws; and their Lordships would, he trusted, agree with him, that so great a desire existed in this country that something should be done with regard to these laws, that it was worthy the consideration of Parliament whether any alteration could be made in them which would assist in developing the resources of this country and her colonies, without interfering with her maritime power. Another subject in the Speech was well worthy being attended to, and he thought their Lordships ought to thank her Majesty for calling the attention of Parliament to it—he alluded to the Sanitary Condition of the People. It was a subject which he himself looked upon as being of great importance; and he trusted that any measure for sanitary improvement which might be introduced by the Government would not be confined in its operation to the metropolis, but that it would be extended to the whole country. He felt that it was needless for him to say anything more in order to induce their Lordships to agree to the Address which I had now the honour of moving. The measures referred to by her Majesty in her most gracious Speech were of such paramount importance that they would doubtless receive their Lordships' immediate and grave consideration. One word more with regard to Ireland. He was glad to find that while five or six years ago it was an uncommon thing to find that the Lord-Lieutenant of that country was not in a position to support his forces in maintaining the law, and were suggesting measures for the improvement of the condition of their country. Their Lordships' best attention would no doubt be given to any measures for relieving the commercial distress which prevailed, and also to any measures which might be proposed (if necessary) to make up any deficiency which he was afraid must exist in the revenue. The noble Lord (who was very indistinctly heard in the gallery during

the latter part of his speech) concluded by reading the Address, which was an echo of the Speech, and moving that it be agreed to.

He was understood to say that the noble mover had noticed every point in such a clear and able manner that nothing was left for him to remark upon.

Lord ELPHINSTONE seconded the Address in a very few words, which the question having been put by the Earl of SHARPTON.

Lord STANLEY rose and said—My Lords, I certainly had desired that some other of your Lordships had addressed you on the present occasion, who would have urged upon some member of her Majesty's Government the propriety of being more explicit as to the reasons for calling us together now than we have as yet heard explained by either of the noble Earls that had moved and seconded the Address; as also of the intentions of that Government, and the explanation which they really have to offer for their conduct in summoning Parliament together at this most unusual and inconvenient period. (Hear.) I should have wished that such an explanation had been given before I attempted to offer any of those observations which occur to me upon the Speech which has just been delivered in the name of her Majesty. But, seeing that none of your Lordships are disposed to originate this discussion, and feeling that the country had never been called together under circumstances of greater anxiety and of greater alarm than at present—feeling that this is a time of the most serious difficulty, after having heard an Address moved to her Majesty, which is but the echo of a Speech singularly unmeaning in its character, and indecisive as to the purposes of Government (hear, hear)—under all these circumstances, I trust your Lordships will hold me excused if, at this early period of the discussion, I present myself before the House for the purpose of submitting to your Lordships those views and impressions which the speeches of the noble mover and seconder of the Address have made upon my mind at this important crisis. (Hear, hear.) I pass by, altogether, the speech of the noble seconder, because I am well aware that my noble friend has, in the kindest manner, and upon the shortest notice, undertaken the duty which he has just discharged. (A laugh.) I shall address myself, then, my Lords, to the Speech of the Government, and to those comments that have been made on that Speech by the noble mover of the Address. My Lords, that Speech commences by informing us that the Lords Commissioners have been commanded to declare to Parliament the causes which have induced her to call Parliament together at this early and unusual period. My Lords, I have looked attentively through that Speech, and I confess I find nothing in the way of satisfactory explanation for this early and unusual meeting. (Hear, hear.) I shall commence with the first subject in that Speech, which has been brought under the consideration of Parliament; and I must here do the Government the justice of saying, that, upon this occasion, they, at all events, have not disguised from your consideration the greatness, the intensity, and the universality of the difficulties in which this country is involved, whether we look to our domestic or social relations, to our mercantile or commercial interests, or to our colonial possessions. I have had the honour of a seat in Parliament for nearly twenty-five years, and at no period do I recollect the Ministers of the Crown compelled to point to a political horizon so entirely clouded with gloom—enveloped in such complete shadow, without a single ray of light to which they could direct your attention, or call for your congratulations. Her Majesty has expressed her regret at the continuance of the civil war in Switzerland. All is regret and lamentation throughout.

Her Majesty has seen with great concern the distress which has for some time prevailed among the commercial classes. The embarrassments of trade were at one period aggravated by so general a feeling of distrust and of alarm, that her Majesty, for the purpose of restoring confidence, authorised her Ministers to recommend to the directors of the Bank of England a course of proceeding suited to such an emergency. This course might have led to an infringement of the law."

Her Majesty deeply sympathises with the sufferings of the people. And there is no member of your Lordships' House who will not join with her Majesty in this deep expression of sympathy with the sufferings of the labouring classes in the manufacturing districts of Great Britain. In England and in Ireland the people are suffering from this great distress. Her Majesty has to lament with your Lordships that the distress which prevailed amongst the commercial classes has affected many others beside.

Her Majesty has, however, to lament the recurrence of severe distress in Ireland, owing to the scarcity of the usual food of the people.

Her Majesty laments that in some counties of Ireland atrocious crimes have been committed, and a spirit of insubordination has manifested itself, leading to an organised resistance to legal rights.

Her Majesty views with the deepest anxiety and interest the present condition of Ireland, and she recommends to the consideration of Parliament measures which, with due regard to rights of property, may advance the social condition of the people, and tend to the permanent improvement of that part of the United Kingdom."

With apprehensions concerning the existence of almost civil war—of deep concern for the commercial distress that prevails at home, the Speech contains nothing but deep and painful lamentations—lamentations on account of the loss of revenue (but the cause of that loss we are still left to inquire into)—lamentations over the state of Ireland, with an intimation to seek for such further measures as may be considered adequate to meet the emergency of the case—lamentations over a system of insubordination that unhappily prevails throughout the sister country, which has led to the commission of the most atrocious crimes, and to the overthrow of almost every legal right. This, my Lords, is a state of things which, in my deliberate opinion, calls for your most serious deliberations. There is no one point of congratulation upon which the Government can meet this great assembly. We meet here in the midst of anxiety, of lamentation over the past, of anxiety for the present, in apprehension of the future. (Hear.) Never was there a time in which it was more essential for the guardianship of the Crown to be swayed by men far-seeing into futurity, who are capable of observing accurately the signs of the times, with resolution to take their own bold and decisive course, while they throw themselves upon the sanction and support of Parliament—men who can state clearly and boldly their views, the causes as well as the effects of all these great national misfortunes—(hear, hear)—men who can state broadly and boldly the line of policy which they propose to adopt. Such men as these the country now requires—who would not fear in this emergency to throw themselves upon the support of all parties in this country; whether they be their political friends or foes, they need not fear but they would all join together, forgetting all party considerations, in the one grand and general effort to rescue our country from the imminent dangers which surround her, and save her from that state of distress hitherto unparalleled. (Hear, hear.) My Lords, the first point noticed in the Speech is the distress that exists amongst the commercial body. No man can deny that distress. I hear with much satisfaction, and I heartily join in congratulations to her Majesty, for the information we received, that the alarm which has recently existed in this portion of the community has considerably subsided. I rejoice to hear that fact, if the information be really correct. Indeed, I, for one, believe that there is some mitigation of this distress; but it is impossible as yet to say whether the alarm has really subsided; for your Lordships should recollect that you have not, as yet received the accounts of the result of these commercial failures from our colonial possessions. You cannot as yet say what the extent and the width of this commercial alarm may be. The noble Earl, who opened the debate this night, has claimed for the Government much credit for taking upon themselves the responsibility of going beyond the law when they became aware of the great commercial difficulties that had existed. I am willing to join the noble Earl in the expression of thanks to the Government for taking this step, which meets with my hearty approval. I may, however, be permitted to express my opinion, that they ought to have given an earlier and more liberal instance. If they had done so, they might have averted that panic which had so recently occurred. (Hear, hear.) I do not, however, deny them the credit they deserve, for having tried, even at the last moment, to violate the law for the purpose of saving the country. I know not how to interpret the terms of that Speech which congratulates this House and the country that the law, notwithstanding the authority that was given for its infraction, has not been infringed.

Her Majesty has great satisfaction in being able to inform you that the law has not been infringed; that the alarm has subsided, and that the pressure on the banking and commercial interests has been mitigated."

Now, I do not hesitate to say, in my opinion, the law has been violated—if not by the Bank itself, by the Government—and for that violation of the law they will require an act of indemnity. Her Majesty's Government, for the purpose of restoring confidence, authorises the Bank of England to commit an infraction of the law. There are, I believe, some variations in the Address that has been moved in answer to her Majesty's Speech. I was not, however, able to collect the precise import of those variations; but I am sure the Government will be the first to acknowledge that the Address in answer to the Speech should be confined as closely as possible to the language of the Speech itself. The Speech proceeds to say that her Majesty has the greatest satisfaction in being able to inform us that the law has not been infringed. Now, I hope I shall be pardoned if I take issue on this ground, and say that the law has been infringed. Whether this was a law which justified a departure from it in some cases, is not a question which it is now necessary for us to consider. That law prescribed that over and above a certain amount of security, the Bank should not be permitted to issue notes, except to the amount of bullion they might have in their coffers. The Bank was brought to nearly that state of things when it would be impossible for them to issue other notes, and it would be necessary for it to call for extraordinary assistance. I believe, according to ordinary management, the reserve in the Bank amounts to £3,000,000 or £4,000,000, at least; but it was actually reduced, lately, to a reserve that did not exceed £1,300,000 or £1,400,000. At this time, commercial pressure was at its greatest height. Under the operation of the Bank Charter Act, it was necessary for the Bank to suspend the usual accommodation they were in the habit of giving upon undoubted security; and the result so recently experienced—so unexpected by its authora—was produced. The anticipations that were generally entertained of the inability of the Bank to make further issues, or to afford greater accommodation, had the effect of inducing all the country banks, and all private persons possessed of property, to hoard up in their private coffers a store of bullion far beyond the amount required for the ordinary transactions of business; and this accumulation, in addition to the £8,000,000 of gold in the coffers of the Bank of England, necessarily caused a universal panic, which panic had the still more aggravating effect of preventing people from bringing forward those monies which they possessed, and which were wholly unnecessary for their immediate wants. (Hear, hear.) At the same time gold was about coming into the Bank, that is to say, the Bank had fair reason to

expect that at no very limited period gold would come in. Yet, under the strain of operations of the law of 1844, they were unable to issue a single note beyond that which the Bank had already in circulation, although they had £8,000,000 of gold lying beside them untouched. Now, these were the circumstances with which the Government had to deal; and I think it is only right to give them credit for taking, though late, that step which had the effect of restoring confidence. In the first place, I have no doubt that, with the most laudable intention to prevent undue issue and lavish accommodation, the Government authorised the Bank to increase their accommodation at the risk of violating the law—at the risk of making the issue of notes larger than the due proportion of bullion. Government, under their hand—under, I believe, the signatures of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer—has authorised and empowered the Bank, upon their responsibility, to violate the law by the issue of a larger amount of notes than they were authorised to issue. At the same time precaution was taken, no doubt with the best intentions, but, I must be allowed to say, most unconstitutional in character, and wholly unworthy of this great country and the Government; for the purpose of taking undue advantage they required mosturious interest to be charged by the Bank, even upon the most undoubted security, with the obvious intention of neutralising with the one hand the boon they were bestowing with the other. I think that this step, in the first place, was most unconstitutional, inasmuch as they were thus raising money on the subject without his consent, but against the express prohibition and will of Parliament. (Hear.) My Lords, I cannot help thinking that this step was wholly discreditable to this country. (Hear, hear.) The condition accompanying the boon was nothing short of this—namely, that Government should go halves with the Bank of England in the profits. I see no justification whatsoever that Government can offer for this proceeding. They must come here to Parliament acknowledging their offence, and must answer to Parliament *ex post facto* for that offence. (Hear, hear.) My Lords, it is no argument for their justification to say that the law has not been infringed. It is no argument for me to say, if I sanctioned the murder of a man, that this murder had never been committed, inasmuch as the victim had never been met. I authorised the perpetration of the crime, and morally as well as legally I must be held accountable for my advice, as if under my advice the crime had actually taken place. If Government undertakes to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act without the authority of Parliament, or by its order, or to authorise the arrest of people without the forms of law, it is no answer to us to say that those circumstances did not arise under which those orders were to be acted upon; but for every man that is unjustly deprived of his liberty by reason of those orders, the Ministers are virtually responsible. So, my Lords, I submit that under that letter, containing these instructions to the Bank of England, they must be held as much responsible for the violations of the law as if the Bank of England had availed themselves of the authority so given, and had really violated the law. Then comes a question much more important to the commercial interest of this country; a question that is exciting the deepest anxiety, and creating the most careful investigations amongst the reflecting classes of the population; and that is the question upon which we have a right to call on your Lordships for the expression of your decided and candid opinions. (Hear, hear.) It is your duty to say whether you mean to maintain that law in its entirety. If you do not intend to do so, what are the amendments and modifications you mean to propose? My Lords, this is a question I think I have a right to ask, and one that I again accompany with the reiteration of the expression of my opinion that under all the circumstances—and better late than never—I think her Majesty's Government have exercised a wise discretion in infringing it; and that they ought to reject it altogether. I have a right to ask of the noble Lord who has just left his place, and to whom I think it would be rather an embarrassing topic, considering the course he has taken—I have a right to ask him, when is this commercial distress and pressure to cease? No doubt it has been said that this distress partly arose from the undue amount of capital invested in railway undertakings. The noble Earl opposite, in his Address in answer to her Majesty's Speech, undertook to give an account of the cause of that distress; and the noble Earl, while supporting her Majesty's Government, says that a great portion of that distress was owing to the importation in the first nine months of the present year of 10,000,000 of quarters of foreign corn. (Cries of "hear, hear.") Now, do not let the noble Earl, and do not let the Government decieve themselves. I hope I shall not be led on this occasion into any discussion of the Corn-Laws, but I cannot forbear calling to mind, when these measures were in progress, I ventured to express an opinion, although it was met with a contemptuous expression on the part of a noble friend of mine, that when these Corn-Laws had been repealed, and provision made to meet the large supply, even when prices ruled moderate in England, we might look for an annual importation of no less than 4,000,000 of quarters of foreign corn. My noble friend laughed at that prediction, but the result has more than borne out my anticipations, for we have imported, not 4,000,000 of quarters in one year, but, according to the speech of the noble Earl opposite—and I do not mean to deny the accuracy of his figures—in the nine or ten months of the present year we have imported upwards of 10,000,000 of quarters of foreign corn. (Hear, hear.) And, my Lords, the noble Earl, in moving the Address, while supporting her Majesty's Government, attributes the commercial distress existing in the country at this moment mainly to the large sums we have had to pay for this foreign corn. (Hear.) Now, really, on the part of the supporters of her Majesty's Government, this is indeed a valuable admission; and for myself, I must say that the event has, in a remarkable manner, verified the results which I had ventured to anticipate from these large importations. (Hear, hear.) My Lords, I had sent me this morning, by post, a copy of a letter which was addressed to me in 1841 by Mr. Cobden, in which he draws a very glowing picture of the results of a free importation of corn. He says there will not be an unemployed man—not a mill short-handed—that new populations would spring up, churches and chapels be built—that the wholesale and retail trade—in short, everything would flourish, if this happy event took place. My Lords, you have had an importation which the most sanguine of the supporters of that measure never dreamed of. You have had 10,000,000 of quarters in nine months. What then, have been your imports and your exports? Your exports have been billion for the payment of that corn (hear, hear), and that export will continue until the prices of your manufactures fall unnaturally and ruinously low, by dint of poor pay, and hard work, and stint allowance; and until you have been enabled to force your manufactured goods, in spite of hostile tariffs, into the markets of the Continent. (Hear, hear.) With an importation of 10,000,000 of quarters of foreign corn, we have a diminution of all the great articles of export. Never was there a period when there were so many mills standing still—so many men upon short time—so many operatives unemployed. Never was there a time when so signal a discomfiture came to crush and destroy all the anticipations of mere theorists, who thought themselves more than all the rest of the world. (Hear, hear.) But, my Lords, this is not the whole of the case. The noble Earl, and he is right, says that our home market has failed, and now you are obliged to export to foreign countries to endeavour to prop up your declining trade. This great truth of the importance of the home trade has been verified by experience and by facts, and it is now shown that your foreign market, great as it is, is comparatively insignificant when weighed in the balance against our home market. (Loud cries of "hear, hear.") My Lords, I do not, for one, attribute the whole of our distress to the repeal of the Corn Laws, or those measures of Free Trade which have been unfortunately adopted; but I say that the failure of the crops in England, having anticipated the repeal of the Corn Laws, by leading to that which you acknowledge to be the object of repeal, has resulted in a large importation of foreign corn as a substitute for British corn. (Hear, hear.) The fulfilment of the prediction, however, has shown, that while the importation of a large

that the expenses to which I was subjected in the present state of Ireland were such, that in the course of the last half year, although my property was in a district which could not be called distressed, I have not received a single shilling from that property. (Hear.) I speak not now of the distressed districts, but one in which considerable care and much money were expended. I speak now of a comparatively comfortable tenantry, of a well-disposed tenantry, and willing to do their duty for themselves—and I ask your Lordships, then, what must be the state of the landlords in the distressed districts, where their sole reliance is in the payment of their rents, and whom you now call upon to support that tenantry? My Lords, it would be far better if these landlords would throw up their property altogether; and it is only a sense of duty that retains many of them upon their property. My Lords, when I speak of the present state of Ireland, I must say that it is worse than a state of civil war, and dreadful is it to find the people enlisted in the strife one against the other—neighbours, and friends, all engaged in an open struggle, and meeting one another with arms in their hands. My Lords, the best landlords—those who have expended their time, and labour, and money—who have sacrificed everything for the purpose of discharging their duty—who have sacrificed the comforts of civilised life, for such they must do in certain parts of Ireland, in order to do their duty to their tenants and dependents—those men, many of them I could name, who are members of your Lordships' House, are besieged within their own houses, and incapable of moving beyond their own demesnes; are fortifying and defending their houses and gardens, and are actually prisoners within them, and with the knowledge throughout the country that their names are on the "black list." (Hear, hear.) My Lords, these men are not deterred—they endeavour to execute their duty; and they hope by their sufferings to enlist your sympathies in their behalf. One by one we see those proscribed men cut off by the hands of the assassin. (Hear, hear.) They wait till that slow but certain hand, against which no precautions can protect them, will assail them unprotected, or if protected, if subjected to the espionage of the police, whether passing to the cottage of the poor man, or to the house of God, or to the board of guardians, for the purpose of doing what in them lies to mitigate the sufferings of the poor, one by one they fall victims to the blow of the assassin, which they have foreseen—of which they have been publicly forewarned. (Hear, hear.) Some of them, perhaps, in the bosom of their family—perhaps even the blow may fall, as fall it did, in a humble quarter, on the unhappy wife, who rushed forward and opposed her own body between the husband and the murderer—perhaps in open day, in the face of the whole community, and with the knowledge and connivance of half the country, the best, humanest, and most irreproachable men are, to the disgrace of a civilised community, cut off by the hand of the assassin. (Hear.) This is the state of things with which you have to deal in Ireland. My Lords, this country is disgraced, I do not deny, by many grievous crimes; but, in this country, thank God, the sympathy of the whole country is in favour of the victim of assassination. (Hear, hear.) The support of the whole country is awake to vindicate the law. (Hear, hear.) The whole country is aroused to bring, at all events, to the vengeance of the law the perpetrator of these nefarious actions. One universal feeling prevails in favour of the vindication of the law, the punishment of crime, and the repression of outrage. (Hear, hear.) My Lords, that is not the case in Ireland. (Hear, hear.) Be it timidity, or some other cause, there no hand is raised to stay the deed: but, worse than that, no voice is raised after the blow to denounce the assassin. Nay, if a voice is raised, it is raised at the peril of life—in Ireland, it is safer to violate than to obey the law. My Lords, I approach a far more painful and more serious question than even this. I hope I shall be forgiven for entering upon such painful details, but they are forced upon me by the manner in which the circumstances of Ireland have been brought forward in her Majesty's Speech; and, I think there is no subject which more imperatively demands or justifies the immediate attention of Parliament. I speak with all respect of the Roman Catholic clergy. I believe that, if not all men of education, they are, in the main, pious and well-disposed individuals—indefatigable in the discharge of their religious duties—in devoting themselves to their flocks, and in sparing no pains nor toil in those offices which they believe it their duty to discharge. Having said this, I think it would be a crime to conceal the expression of my opinion, that, however the Roman Catholic clergy, as a body, may be desirous of repressing and discouraging offences, the Roman Catholic clergy, as a body, do not lead themselves to the support of the law. (Loud cheers.) My Lords, I believe—perhaps it may be natural—but I believe that there is kind of rivalry of authority with regard to criminal offences in Ireland between the clergy and the law. I believe that the sacredness of confession is carried to a degree dangerous to the civil government and to the peace of the country. This I will say—that although I have heard of many denunciations against informers—and informer in Ireland means any man who joins in bringing offenders to justice; prosecutors, witnesses, all are classed under that name—and while against informers there have been denunciations from the sacred altar without end, I never heard—I should wish to hear, it would give me the greatest possible gratification to hear—a declaration made, either publicly or privately, by pastoral letter, by private recommendation, or by authoritative declaration, in the temple of God or outside the threshold, that it was the duty of every member of the community not only to abstain from crime himself, but to denounce to the civil authority those who might be guilty of premeditated crime. (Cheers.) My Lords, I never heard of such a declaration, and I do believe, speaking with all respect of their merits, which I do not deny, that the Roman Catholic clergy do not in Ireland apply the influence which they have towards the support of the law, by recommending and enforcing as a solemn duty the denunciation to the civil authority of crimes which they know to be premeditated, and which must afterwards be accomplished. I must say, without attributing to any one of the clergy worse motives than those of imprudence, that among recent instances I have seen addressed to perhaps a too excitable peasantry denunciations of classes of individuals—(hear, hear)—denunciations of individuals—(hear, hear)—which denunciations could hardly fail of stimulating to acts of violence that excitable population. One most melancholy instance was followed within two days by the assassination of a man of whom the priest had asked from the altar whether such a man deserved to live? (Hear, hear.) Her Majesty's Speech holds forth certain expectations that some measure will be asked for, for the repression of these crimes. I say, then, in my own name, in the names of my noble friends around me, and I am sure I may say in the name of England (hear, hear), in the name of humanity, in the name of civilisation, let those measures be effectual—let them be prompt. (Loud cheers.) Let no fear of a loss of support from following such a course—let no fear of being taxed with inconsistency, turn you from your duty. Throw yourselves upon the generosity—upon the justice of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Believe me, you will receive from us no unworthy opposition—no unworthy taunt. (Hear, hear.) Believe me, you shall receive from us no flinching, no hesitating, no ambiguous support. (Hear, hear.) It is you who are responsible for life and property. Life and property are above all constitutional theories. They are the foundation, the basis, the main bond of all constitutions and all rights. You, the Ministers, are charged with the maintenance of those rights. Demand what sacrifices you will from the Irish landlords. Compel them to discharge their duties, but, in God's name, protect them and their helpless dependents from the hand of the assassin. I recollect, years and years ago, I was cried down almost for expressing an opinion which I entertain at this moment as strongly as I ever entertained it, that the law in Ireland must be feared before it can be loved—it must be looked up to for protection, and as a check to evil-disposed men, before the Irish people will bow to its authority. I give to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland my cordial meed of praise; I believe that, to the extent to which the law would go, he has exercised the powers intrusted to him with fidelity and vigour. But, the greater the fidelity and vigour which he has displayed, the more clear and manifest is the proof that the existing powers of the law are insufficient, and that further powers are wanting. Upon you, the Government, rests the responsibility of asking for those powers. My Lords, I will not believe that this or the other House of Parliament—I will not believe that the representatives of this kingdom, whose prime object must be to protect the people, and maintain the security of life and property—I will not believe that in either House of Parliament you will find any resistance to granting to your discretion, subject to your responsibility, the exercise of any powers which you may deem necessary. Earl Grey, as sound a constitutional Whig as any noble Lord whom I see opposite, did not hesitate to ask for the powers necessary to effect the object he had in view, and I trust you will not hesitate to ask for full and sufficient powers. Should Parliament deny you, on Parliament be the responsibility. (Hear, hear.) My Lords, the subject on which I have just addressed you is of such deep interest, that I hardly know how to advert to those of minor importance. I find in her Majesty's Speech, in reference to foreign affairs, a statement that her Majesty, in concert with her allies, has offered her mediation for the purpose of restoring peace to Switzerland. I only wish that her Majesty's Government could promise to Parliament a speedy termination to the hostilities in that country. Speaking of our foreign relations, it is somewhat extraordinary that no allusion should have been made to the state of the war now going on between the United States and Mexico (as we understood). With regard to the internal affairs of all foreign countries, my humble advice to your Lordships, and to her Majesty's Government, is to interfere as little as possible. Last year I took the liberty of calling attention to the affairs of Portugal, and of remonstrating against the proposed intervention. My remonstrance was disregarded—an armed intervention took place. The effusion of blood was stopped, no doubt, and the civil war put an end to; but you understood at the same time a task in which, as we told you, you would fail—namely, to guarantee the performance of certain acts on certain conditions. My Lords, I ask you, have you been able to fulfil those conditions? (Hear, hear.) Has the Sovereign of Portugal implicitly followed the advice of those by whom alone her Throne could have been saved? Or is the result this—that, whereas you have taken upon yourselves the anomalous duty of Minister of the Interior in Portugal, the consequence really is, after a system of intrigue, violence, and corruption in the election of the Cortes, the restoration, under British influence, of that Minister to power in Portugal to whose oppression and tyrannical conduct was owing the rebellion which you put down. I have nothing to say against Senor Cabral. If the Portuguese people desire him for their Minister, in God's name let them have him; but what I complain of is, that this country should intermeddle in the affairs of Portugal, and undertake a task in itself impossible, the result of which has been just as was predicted. I am surprised that the State of Italy should not have been adverted to in that part of her Majesty's Speech relating to foreign affairs, for I hold the civil war now raging in Switzerland of infinitely less importance as compared with the struggle now maintained between antagonistic principles in that country where a revolution is going on which threatens the balance of power in Europe, in which we see ranged on one side a most liberal and enlightened Prince in all civil matters, but a most arbitrary one, as I conceive, in all of a spiritual kind. I know not what the Government are doing in this case, and I hope they are abstaining altogether—I hope they are doing nothing. But on an occasion like the present, it might have been decorous at least to have alluded to it. I hope there is no truth in the reports which have appeared in the newspapers from time to time, that a member of her Majesty's Government—

that member of the Cabinet—I hope their is no truth in the reports that Lord Minto has taken any part in this struggle, either one way or another, or has expressed publicly, or in any way, his own opinions, or still more the opinions of her Majesty's Government, upon the subject, or that any member of the Government has, indirectly or directly, given any opinion whatever to the success or the result of that struggle, or that the Government are in the slightest degree committed by any indiscretion of their agent which might be inconsistent with the obligations of former treaties. With reference to the concluding paragraph with respect to foreign affairs, I confess that such was my geographical ignorance that I really was not aware that the Republics of the Equador possessed any ports or navy, by means of which they would be able to assist in the suppression of the Slave Trade. No doubt, however, the noble Lord the Secretary for the Colonies will lay this important treaty on the table (laughter), though this, perhaps, was not one of the reasons why Parliament was called together. (Laughter) Your policy is the suppression of the Slave Trade. Take care what you do. Take care, in talking of the suppression of the Slave Trade, that you do not provoke to a discussion which might show that the suppression of the Slave Trade on the left hand was carried out with its encouragement and support on the right. (Hear, hear.) I believe that the reports of the passing of the act for the admission of slave-grown sugar were received in the Havannah with bonfires and illuminations; that they raised the price of slaves, that it gave an additional stimulus; and my firm conscientious belief is this, that if I had to choose between the two—the restoration of the prohibition in the markets of this country of slave-grown sugar, and the total withdrawal of all your squadron, maintained at such an expense and loss of life on the coast of Africa—if I had to choose between the two, I should regard as far more effectual, far more innocent, far less ruinous, far less destructive, the total withdrawal of your squadron, and the restoration of the former system. And, my Lords, that brings me to another and not an unimportant omission in the Speech of her Majesty. I allude to the omission of any notice of one of the greatest sources, if not the very greatest source, of that distress with which the Speech is filled. There may have been imprudence, there may have been undue speculation on the part of our merchants; but there is not a man among you bold enough to get up and say that the last blow which overthrew the great commercial houses connected with your colonies was that act by which you placed on an equality with regard to duty, but on a frightful footing of equality as to all other circumstances, your own colonial producers of free-labour sugar and the slave-labour producers of Brazil and Cuba. (Hear, hear.) But how are we now to deal with that question? My Lords, I read the other day—I read with pain and grief—the speech of Sir Charles Grey to the House of Assembly of Jamaica, in which, speaking in the name of the Government, and yet speaking against his own honest convictions, with the ruin of those whom he was addressing staring him in the face, he says to them, "What would you have? When protection was withdrawn from corn, protection could not be maintained for sugar." And now the West Indians say, and say with some reason, "If we are to have no advantages in the markets of England—if our produce is to receive no preference—if we are to have no favour in consideration of the difficulties and the obstacles thrown in our way by your Legislation, and not in the way of our rivals, at all events subject us to no further disadvantage: Thus it has happened that the protection to corn having been withdrawn, the protection to sugar also ceased; and the protection to sugar having ceased, your sugar manufacturers join in the ignorant and dangerous cry that for the protection of the mercantile interests of this country you must sweep away the Navigation Laws. (Loud cries of "hear, hear.") But my inference from the course of your past policy and its results is directly the opposite to that. Undoubtedly if the principles of Free-Trade are to prevail over everything; if buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest is to be your only rule, while you set aside all considerations of maritime superiority, of national supremacy and national honour, then you will do wisely to go on in your downward course and to lower prices to the utmost possible extent. But, my Lords, I believe it would be a suicidal policy for a country like ours, which must depend for its command of the necessities and the luxuries of life, not on the narrow precincts of this ocean-surrounded island, but on the extent of its foreign traffic, and its possession of that portion of the world over whose commercial relations it exercises a paramount influence—I believe it would be a suicidal policy for such a country to abolish those Navigation Laws which form the nursery of its commerce. (Hear, hear.) In the opinion of some persons, however, we must bow before a theory, and submit to become a secondary power. My inference, on the contrary, from the consequences of your past course, is, that you ought now at length to see the ruin to which that course is driving you, and that before it be too late, you ought to arrest your downward progress, and if it be possible retrace your dangerous step. (Hear, hear.) I find that we now have to contend with a deficiency of means to meet the national expenditure. But I can find in her Majesty's Speech no statement of the manner in which her Majesty's Government intend to meet that deficiency. I see that her Majesty expresses a hope "that the time is not distant when, under the blessing of Divine Providence, the commerce and industry of the United Kingdom will have resumed their wonted activity." My Lords, I earnestly pray that that hope may speedily be realised. But I believe that if you desire that the industry of the country should be revived, you must pursue a course of policy calculated to promote and encourage that industry. I do not think that that is the course you have of late been pursuing. I will take this opportunity of expressing a hope that there is no truth in a report to which I shall not further advert than to state that it has been circulated that, in the distresses and difficulties to which her Majesty's Government are exposed, a ruinous and desperate attempt will be made to aggravate the pressure of direct taxation (Loud cries of "hear, hear"); and not only to continue a tax in the first instance temporary in its character, but to increase and extend that tax, with aggravating circumstances, in a manner into which I shall not now enter. I hope her Majesty's Government have no such intention. I trust that they will rather feel it their duty, and that, if they do not, Parliament will feel it its duty, strenuously to resist any attempt to impose such a tax on the country in a time of profound peace (hear, hear); and that, if there be a deficiency in the revenue, arising out of recent measures of the Government, sounder principles will be adopted—that, to apply a well-known maxim, millions will be taxed for the purpose of raising millions; that you will not think yourselves wiser than the rest of the world, and that, if your means are insufficient to meet the exigencies of the country (and God forbid I should throw any impediment in the way of meeting the national demands), you will not have recourse to the dangerous principle of extending and aggravating direct taxation, but revert to the sound, sensible, old, universally-adopted system of raising a considerable portion of your revenue by the most legitimate source of taxation—namely, by imposing duties on articles of import. (Hear, hear.) It is not my intention to disturb, on this occasion, the unanimity which it is desirable should prevail in presenting a dutiful and loyal address to her Majesty; as I am well aware—and I am sure that her Majesty's Government will agree with me upon that point—that assenting to the Address will involve no expression of opinion with regard to the particular subjects indicated in her Majesty's Speech, or with regard to any measure which the Government may hereafter deem it their duty to submit to Parliament. I pledge myself to nothing more than a respectful attention to the proposals which may be brought under our consideration. And I may add that, to strong and violent, perhaps, my opposition may be to measures which I believe to be founded on principles wholly and directly wrong, yet, on questions not involving such principles, but in which the interests of the country and the safety of the community are wrapped up, no feeling of resentment or hostility, if such a feeling be entertained, shall prevent me from giving to her Majesty's Government, for the maintenance of order, and for the efficient discharge of the public service, as loyal and as warm a support as if I had the honour of a seat on the benches opposite. (The noble Lord resumed his seat amidst loud cheers.)

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE defended the commercial policy of the Government, and denied that they had violated the Bank Charter Act, for all that they had done was to tell the Bank that, in their opinion as individuals, it would be justified in pursuing the course it had since adopted. It was open to the Bank to take or to reject that advice, and to follow the law or to disobey it as they pleased, relying upon the view which Parliament, in the latter case, might take of the course they had selected. With regard to Ireland, though the orderly behaviour of the mass of the people under their privations was most laudable, still, it was not to be supposed that the abominable crimes which disgraced some counties could be tolerated, and he was, therefore, rejoiced to hear that the Government might reckon on the noble Lord's support in the attempts which they might feel it necessary to make for the security of life and property in Ireland. After referring to some other points touched on in Lord Stanley's speech, the noble Lord sat down, expressing a hope that commerce would speedily flow back into its accustomed channels, and that the people would again find themselves in the possession of all the blessings of prosperity.

Lord ASHTONTON was understood to say that the act of 1844 was a great experiment which had signally failed, and that the Government must be charged with blindness and indifference to the opinion of the country if they did not attempt to alter it. He quite agreed that the change in the Corn Laws had nothing to do with the distress; the state of the corn trade since the change had been pretty much the same as it would have been had no alteration taken place. (Hear, hear.) The necessity of a large importation of corn, and the consequent expenditure of money, had had the effect of casting the balance of trade against this country, but not to any serious extent. The whole amount of bullion sent to America did not exceed £4,000,000 or £5,000,000. What could be the danger if that at the time the Bank had £15,000,000 or £16,000,000 in its coffers, and was actually encumbered with bullion? It would have produced no distress whatever. If the Bank had not been under the dread of its restriction, it would have gone on with its existing supply of bullion without any apprehension. The Free-Traders asserted that cheapness was everything, but he said that if they destroyed the means by which the industry of their countrymen would have enabled them to buy cheap things, they did them no good by reducing the price either of sugar or any other article.

Lord BROUHAM said he had occasion last year to blame Her Majesty's Ministers for having delayed so long in calling Parliament together, after having exceeded the law in one of their Irish measures. His argument then was, that it was the duty of the Government, whenever they had violated the law, to call the Legislature together at the earliest possible period thereafter. These having been his sentiments, he was bound to express his approval of the readiness shown by his noble friends opposite in meeting Parliament at the earliest moment, although none of them Lordships felt, perhaps, the inconvenience of this early session so much as he did. The greater credit was due to them, because the Government had placed itself in a position that made it possible, and by no means improbable, that the indemnity they required might be refused them. He would also say that he highly approved of something having been done to relieve the recent pressure. It was his clear and deliberate opinion, before the pressure came to be so great, that quite sufficient pressure existed in the latter part of the autumn to require some interposition on the part of the Government. (Hear, hear.) Whether or not the exact thing had been done that ought to have been done he would not now examine; but he was satisfied that some interference on the part of the Government had become unavoidable, and that that interference was necessarily an interference with the Bank Charter Act. He should, therefore, be disposed to be satisfied with the Government in this respect, and to make no complaint against them upon this ground. He could not conceive that a case more properly requiring interference could occur; and when he saw the effect produced upon the whole commerce of the country by the Directors of the Bank of England themselves—first lowering the rate of interest more than they ought to have done, afterwards suddenly raising it when they ought not suddenly to have raised it, then raising the rate of interest to anurious amount, and then ultimately, and last of all, refusing it altogether, when the pressure of the commerce of the country satisfied them that the Government would interfere and allow such a trading company to alter its course—when he reviewed all these things, he could not help saying that he had more than a doubt whether or not the existence of this great body, with all its power, all its influence, all its regulation of the whole commercial concerns of this empire—whether the existence of this body, so constituted and so acting, was not dearly purchased by the benefits which, under all circumstances, it must be confessed the country derived from the existence of that body. (Hear.) He understood, however, there was to be an inquiry into the operation of the late Bank Charter Act, and the conduct of the Bank of England would undergo investigation. Before he sat down, he felt bound to express his opinions on the other cause of convening Parliament—namely, the state of the sister country. No man felt more strongly than himself how much they owed to Ireland of reparation for the impecunious committed during years of misgovernment. No one was more ready than himself to confess that much was due to that country from England and from the empire at large. But there was also one thing clear and beyond dispute, that before attempting to repay that country what we owed her of justice, and before we attempted to retrace our steps if we had made them in a wrong direction in her favour—before anything could be attempted, or thought of, or raised in debate, the one thing needful was that the present state of things in that country must be by force of law altered. Ireland now stood in a shameful and hateful pre-eminence of crime; and, if there was one spot in the civilised world in which life was less secure than another, it was Ireland. Could anything be conceived more likely to extend than a system which converted the tenant into the owner of the land? Perhaps the last of these foul murders was one of a creditor, who had lent money, and got a judgment against his debtor, and who was then shot. (Hear, hear.) It was better to wait, and see what the Government measures for Ireland would be, instead of speculating about them. But he was sure that, in every quarter of the House, Ministers would find the strongest desire to co-operate with them, and to go all possible lengths to restore the vigour of the law. (Cheers.) And he hoped his noble friend would avoid the error of adopting this or that course, or abstaining from doing this or that, in order to conciliate the enmity of this or that knot of partisans. (Cheers.) He hoped the Government would let those parties take their own course, and propose the measures which they considered necessary for Ireland. He would answer for it, in that case, that they would receive the general and generous support of both Houses of Parliament, and they would have the satisfaction of doing this without in the least risking their tenure of office. They would have such a majority in both Houses as would give them the opportunity of proposing wise measures, without the chance of opposition, or of being turned out; and they would have as fair a chance as any Government he ever knew of carrying those measures which they thought necessary for the welfare of the country. (Hear, hear.) There was one point which it was difficult to abstain from alluding to, but he trusted the law would be found sufficient to cope with the instigators to murder. (Hear, hear.) If the accounts he had seen of those incitements to murder were not grossly exaggerated, those acts made the parties who so conducted themselves answerable to the law, as it now stood. But if the law would not re-act, or if the execution of the law were surrounded with insurmountable difficulties, then a new law must be made, and made so stringent as to reach all parties without doubt or uncertainty. (Hear, hear.) And he was sure that to lover of justice, that no friend of Ireland, would feel any other than the greatest anxiety that all those great criminals should be brought to justice. (Cheers.)

The Earl of RODEN said, that no statement of the truth could come up to the real circumstances of the present state of some parts of Ireland, as they were experienced by the resident gentry. Measures were promised for giving protection to life and property. What those measures would be, he could not pretend to anticipate; but certainly he presumed the first step would be to disarm the people. Was there anything so preposterous as that men coming to work in the fields should come with pistols and muskets? He could not help congratulating the House and the country that, whatever might be the measures her Majesty's Government might propose, they would be carried into effect by one who was peculiarly fitted for the task with which he was intrusted. Lord Clarendon was a man who, during the short time he had been in Ireland, had secured for himself the attachment of all classes and persons; and every support would be given to him in carrying out the measures which he might be called upon to carry out. He (the Earl of Roden) felt most happy to think that the execution of those measures would be committed to that noble Lord. If the Government on this side the water did their duty, the noble Lord would do his, and would carry out their measures with all his efforts, talents, and determination.

Earl FITZWILLIAM had no doubt her Majesty's Government would do everything in their power to restore tranquillity to Ireland. He concurred in the disapprobation which had been expressed of the language used in reference to the Irish landlords. He should like to know from some Noble Lords resident in Ireland, or from her Majesty's Ministers, whether any estimate had been formed as to the number of persons in that country for whose sustenance it would be necessary to import food into Ireland. He could not calculate that number at less than 2,000,000. Though as a general rule it was right not to interfere with the course of trade, he would suggest whether there were not parts of Ireland to which those rules did not apply. England could not hope to raise Ireland to a prosperous condition till she had given that country the means of raising itself from the slough of difficulties in which it was struggling.

Earl GREY would not detain their Lordships in the present state of the House; but, when his noble friend seemed to complain that no noble Lord had alluded to the distress in Ireland, he could not avoid expressing his regret that his noble friend had not observed the same silence on that topic as on others; because, after what took place last year, it did not appear expedient to teach the people of Ireland to look for relief in their present difficulties from the general funds. It was impossible to conceal that the granting of such relief last year had been attended with very serious evils. (Hear, hear.) It had been attended with the evil of fostering an unhappy disposition which existed in Ireland, to depend on others rather than look to themselves for support, and also of increasing that want of capital which had caused so much embarrassment in this country. There still, however, remained in store a quantity of food, which the British Association retained for cases of extreme want. He trusted that those means would be sufficient, and he conceived that there could hardly be a greater evil than the necessity of Parliament again opening the public purse for purposes of relief. At the request of his noble friend the President of the Council, he begged to state that it was proposed to appoint a Committee to inquire into the causes of the recent commercial distress, and how far that distress was affected by the law regulating the issue of bank notes payable on demand. His right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer had, in the other House, given notice of a motion for the appointment of such a Committee.

Lord REDESDALE begged to ask whether it was the intention of her Majesty's Ministers to introduce any of their measures into their Lordships' House, and also whether it was their intention to move the appointment of a Committee such as that proposed to be appointed in the other House?

Earl GREY replied that it was not the intention of her Majesty's Government to originate in their Lordships' House the measures which they had at this time to propose.

The Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, was then agreed to; and it was ordered to be presented on Thursday, by noble Lords with white staves.

On the motion of Earl GREY, the Sessional Orders were agreed to, and the Earl of Shaftesbury was re-appointed Chairman of Committees.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY thanked their Lordships for this renewed mark of their confidence, and observed that this was his 34th year of service.

The House then adjourned till Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at twelve o'clock. At eleven the ceremony of searching the vaults under the House was performed. This search is made on the first day of every session, with as much care and as much minute precaution as if danger were really apprehended; every passage and every nook being, w<sup>th</sup> the aid of lamps and flambeaux, as fully examined as if there existed any rat's nest grounds for suspicion. Engaged in this duty were twelve yeomen of the guard, two exons, two marshals, Mr. H. Phipps (an officer from the

ember, he should move that a select committee be appointed to inquire and report on the means by which the Parliament of Ireland was dissolved, the effects which that event produced upon the state of Ireland, as well upon the labourers engaged in husbandry as on those employed in manufactures, as also its effects on the agriculturists and operatives of England, together with the probable consequences to the United Kingdom at large of a continuance of the Legislative Union between the two countries.

**IMPEACHMENT OF LORD PALMERSTON.**—Mr. ANSTY gave notice that he should take an early opportunity of moving for a return of certain papers connected with the administration of foreign affairs from the year 1829 to the present time, and that upon those papers he intended to found a charge against a Noble Lord on the Treasury bench of high crimes and misdemeanours. (A laugh.)

**ISLE OF MAN.**—Dr. BOWRING gave notice of motions on the administration of the criminal law in the Isle of Man, and on the subject of a decimal coinage.

Mr. HORSEMAN gave notice of a motion on the subject of the course of proceedings pursued by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

**ADJOURNED DEBATES.**—Mr. BROTHERTON gave notice of a motion to the effect that, when the adjournment of a debate is moved at any time after twelve o'clock, the debate shall be adjourned to the following day without any question being put thereon.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.—ADDRESS OF THE COMMONS.

The SPEAKER had, he said, to report to the House that he had that day attended the House of Peers; that a Commission under the Great Seal had appointed certain Commissioners to read her Majesty's Speech to both Houses; that the Marquis of Lansdowne had read the Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which he had obtained a copy. He then read the Queen's Speech. [See Lord's report.]

Mr. HENWOOD had, he said, now to move that an humble Address be presented to her Majesty, thanking her for the gracious Speech which she had been pleased to address to both Houses. In making this motion, it first became necessary for him to request that indulgence which the House usually accorded on occasions like the present (hear), and which was the more needed by him, and in his case, as it was not in his power to congratulate them on the state of prosperity, but rather to express his regret at the state of their commercial position, and when their trading classes were in a state of great depression, and when many were suffering from undue speculations in railways. Such had been the character impressed upon this age, by speculations in railways, that this might well be designated as "the iron age." Nothing could be more extraordinary than what had been done as regarded railways in this country. It amounted in all to no less a sum than £299,000,000. There had been £161,000,000 paid on bonds and shares, and there were engagements contracted to the amount of £138,000,000. These enormous sums expended or allocated to one object could not but cause a crisis, and to this were to be added the deficient harvest of last year, the failure of the potato crop, and other unhappy and unforeseen circumstances. These, altogether, could not but cause great poverty, produce great embarrassment, and inflict great misery upon the country. (Hear.) Its effects, he could say from experience, had been felt in Lancashire, where the cotton trade had greatly decreased, and where, in 1845, the average weekly consumption was 30,000 bales; in 1846, 31,000 bales; and this year, the average weekly consumption was only 20,000 bales. Then there had been over-speculation in the East Indies, over-speculation in corn, and with these a vast number of causes, all combining to cause a depression in trade, and a consequent deficiency of money. (Hear, hear.) Matters at length came to such a point, that there was a panic in the commercial world—money was not to be found for the discount of bills, and it was felt that some time must elapse before a sufficiency could be found. At that time, the noble Lord at the head of the Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had recommended to the Bank of England to enlarge their discounts, and he believed that if some such course had not been taken, still more serious consequences must have ensued. (Hear.) The result of their interference, he believed, had been advantageous. By means of their letter, of 28th October, confidence was in a certain degree restored. He might mention as a proof of the condition in which the country was placed at this time, that in Newcastle there had been a run upon the bank; that the managers at the bank had the good sense to meet it; that intelligence was sent by the electric telegraph to Leeds, and an express train brought a large amount of bullion from Leeds to Newcastle. He only mentioned this fact to show what was the amount of alarm that prevailed. Happily, however, there had been no infringement of the Bank Charter Act. But few discounts were required, and the Bank had, on the preceding day, reduced its discounts to 7 per cent, and in a short time he hoped it would be at liberty to resume its arrangements in the ordinary course of business. (Hear.) The state of Ireland was alluded to in the Queen's Speech. It was not necessary to inform the House that atrocious crimes had been perpetrated in Ireland; that these must be put an end to some way or another; that the means must be afforded to her Majesty's Government to suppress crime, and punish the perpetrators of it. He thought, too, that remedial measures were required for Ireland, and he was happy to see an allusion made to the improvement of the social condition of the people; and he also thought that the Lord-Lieutenant was to be commended for the admirable system he had pursued in Ireland. (Hear.) The Lord-Lieutenant had turned the attention of the agricultural interest to the improvement of their crops, and through his means lecturers were instructing the peasantry as to the improvement of the crops grown by them, whilst already there had been an improvement in the green crops. (Hear, hear.) The House, he was sure, could not but rejoice to hear that the foreign relations of this country were in such a state as to enable her Majesty to be able to assure them and to congratulate them on the prospect of continued peace; whilst, with regard to the civil war in Switzerland, as all deplored the existence of such calamity, all would desire that this country would use its best efforts to restore it to peace. There were few countries in which a greater respect was felt for England than in Switzerland, and he was sure that the sympathy shown by England for Switzerland would tend much to restore peace and harmony to that country. (Hear.) As to the slave trade, the House, he was sure, would be glad to hear that her Majesty had concluded a treaty with the Republic of the Equador, which, although a small State, was one the co-operation of which would aid England much in the attainment of that object; for under the treaty her Majesty's ships were to have power to search their vessels. The House, too, he was sure, would agree in the propriety of the course that was to be pursued with respect to the Navigation Laws. He was sure that the House could not but think it proper that these laws should come under their consideration; and he believed that they would well prepare their minds by reading the amusing work written on the report of the Committee, by the honourable member for Stoke-on-Trent (Mr. Ricardo). No one, he was sure, could doubt but that the health of towns was a subject on which he could speak from his own personal knowledge of the manufacturing districts. The working classes had suffered much—they had been thrown out of work—they had been working short time—they had been much afflicted—and yet their patience and their magnanimity under their sufferings were such as to entitle them for their conduct to the respect of that House. (Cheers.) He would speak too, of the pleasure that had been excited and the joy that had been diffused throughout Lancashire when her Majesty visited it, on her return from Scotland. (Cheers.) He now begged to move that an humble Address be presented to her Majesty, for the gracious Speech which she had been pleased to make in that House. He then read the Address, which was an echo to the Speech.

Mr. C. S. ADAIR, in rising to second the motion, craved the indulgence of the House, and for the same reason as his hon. friend; and he also claimed it on the ground of his inexperience, and lest it should lead him to do injury in their eyes to the cause which he endeavoured to advocate. (Cheers.) Those who had witnessed the state of distress to which this great capital had been reduced during the late stoppage of trade, must be able fully to appreciate how much praise was due to her Majesty when she authorised her Ministers to do that which might infringe an Act regulating their banking affairs. He thought that such conduct on the part of the Crown should entitle her Majesty to their warmest thanks and admiration. In the Speech which had been made from the throne, it was observed that an abundant harvest had only served to mitigate the evils consequent on a want of employment. Now he trusted that that House, and the other branch of the Legislature, would be able to devise such measures as that an abundant harvest should always bring with it abundant blessings to the working men of this country, that they might ensure, as far as human legislation could do, full and remunerative employment to the labouring classes in this country. It would be necessary to look to them—to do justice to them—as well as to our connection with the great commercial interests of the country; and to do this effectually, they must look to the operation of the Navigation Laws, and see how they affected the community—not pre-determined to uphold, nor so prejudiced as to condemn them without full inquiry. With respect to the distress which pressed upon the commercial interest, and, through the commercial interest, on the industrial classes, perhaps it was well for them, as an empire, that their pride, as a nation, should be abated, and that where they fancied was their greatest strength, they should be made to feel their weakness; but, learning this lesson, they never could despair, for they knew what was the indomitable energy of the British people, and how well they struggled out of every difficulty, and conquered every obstacle. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) It would afford the House, he was sure, unmixed gratification to learn that another link had been stricken from the chain which bound the limbs of the slave. He conceived that there could be but one opinion with respect to the advantages, the moral and physical result, of the treaty which had been concluded with the republic of the Equador. The previous arrangements a kind of chicanery was carried on, and when England asserted her great privilege of being the friend of the slave, she gave up her right to interfere with her exertions to a considerable degree. (Hear.) When we felt the greatest pride in the weight and importance which this country had attained in the councils of the world, it was then also most especially called upon to interpose friendly advice in the affairs of another state—more so, when that state, by its constitutional and political arrangements, gave us sympathy and support; and when too, unthinkingly, its internal condition was such as to need and require the friendly advice of those who were interested in its welfare. He alluded to Switzerland. It was a terrible thing to the friends of constitutional freedom to see it borne down by the step of the invader.

It was terrible, even when it was obscured by the smoke of successful battle; but it was yet more terrible, when the blood of brethren was shed in domestic quarrels upon their own soil. (Hear, hear.) And he might infer from the gracious Speech of her Majesty—he spoke as an individual member of the House—he might infer, from the assurance that her Majesty had given, "that she looked with confidence to the maintenance of the general peace of Europe," that the better day that was dawning beyond the Alps would ere long shine upon new kingdoms admitted into the great confederacy of free people. He might infer that those people who had done honour to their Sovereigns as Sovereigns had done honour to them, might be permitted to exercise within their own frontiers the undoubted right of deciding what their constitutional and municipal arrangements should be. The next question contained in the Speech from the Throne to which he would advert was, that of the health of towns. That was a subject of the utmost importance; and he was of opinion that the least possible delay should be permitted to intervene ere they adopted and carried into full execution some measures for its improvement. Already disease was making great ravages amongst the inhabitants of our large towns, and he feared that before a long period had elapsed they would have to make preparations for the reception of another and a ghastlier visitant. There was, indeed, too much reason to believe that the cholera was on its way towards this country, and but short time might be allowed us to make preparations against its further progress. (Hear.) There was another and a leading topic contained in her Majesty's Speech, on which he should speak with a sense of deep oppression under the great and overpowering interest of the subject. The Speech from the Throne told them of "sufferings which afflicted the labouring classes in the manufacturing districts of Great Britain, and also in many parts of Ireland." Now, whatever measures might be in preparation, or were rendered necessary by the process of events in Ireland, this at least they knew, that to render life desirable it must be made secure—(cheers from the Conservative benches)—that in fact the state had a right to demand an account of the blood of every one, even of the meanest of its subjects. (Renewed cheers.) Though he knew the many good qualities of the Irish people, yet when he reflected on the scenes that had been recently enacted there, and when he heard of the horrible assassinations which were so frequently taking place there, his heart was greatly sickened. (Hear, hear.) In the old disastrous times, from which he for one would never raise the veil, except perchance to select some example for admiration—in those disastrous times, terrible as the outrages were that were then committed, still Christian charity might from time to time find some palliation, some excuse to urge, in behalf of the wretched men who committed the crimes which made them the objects of such abhorrence. Christian charity might not have been improperly exercised in endeavouring to account for these offences, though not to extenuate them. In those days, too, now happily passed away of amazified political rancour, the madness of politics might have hurried men into crime; but at the present time, when the Legislature had wisely, justly, and humanely decreed, that the Irish people should find provision upon the Irish soil so long as provision could be supplied, when political enmities and political strife and animosities were allayed, then that the gigantic figure of noonday murder should stalk forth, was horrible—it was astounding. (Hear, hear.) He believed that these frightful crimes, which disgraced the sister country, might be checked and repressed by the ordinary powers of the law; but, speaking as an individual member of this House, he ventured to say that, at any rate, life must be protected; and that, if we could not walk in the light of the Constitution, better the soldier's bayonet than the Judge's ermine, so that crime should no longer stalk forth unsubdued. (Loud cheers.) But whilst endeavouring to redress an evil, to remedy a grievance, or assist good endeavours, it was abundantly necessary, at the same time, to educate, to instruct, to improve, and to sharpen the moral apprehension of the people. It would be for this House, in its legislation, to set the moral guilt of their transgressions before these unhappy men, and to teach them that there was not only the one criminal who fired off his musket against his wretched victim, but that there might be other criminals in greater or less degrees—that there might be complicity in guilt—that the district and people who neglected to apprehend an offender, but willingly allowed him to depart, were accessories in guilt, and were heart and part in the disgrace and infamy which that guilt entailed upon the land. They must have continually brought before them the fact that there were duties as well as rights among all classes of society—a lesson which was, perhaps, occasionally forgotten. They must be told that the Government would, as far as the Government could, abate this moral pestilence and this physical evil—that it would stand forward and protect the meanest as well as the greatest of its subjects against the assassin's blow. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the remedial measures which would be hereafter submitted to the House, it was not his province to anticipate them, or the nature of the reception which they might meet with at their hands. But this he knew, that after the repression of crime must come a restoration of confidence between man and man; for it would be unmanly in him to attempt to conceal that there was not now that confidence which ought to reign between man and man. Confidence, like all noble things, was slow of growth; but he trusted we were on the march towards it, and that measures would be proposed and carried that were calculated to tranquillise the country. Confidence being restored, then would come the period for developing the great and inexhaustible resources of the country. But from his experience of Ireland, he would warn the House not to expect too rapid results from any measures which might be introduced, and thereby avoid discouragement. (Hear, hear.) The duty of the British Senate was a great and glorious one—it was to draw nearer to them a country that should be a rival only in constitutional progress; and in performing it they must call for the assistance of all classes, from the highest to the lowest. The English people had a great abhorrence of crime; but he believed there was no sacrifice and no exertion that they were not willing to make for improving the condition of Ireland. And, believing that that object was attainable by the exercise of a large, generous, comprehensive, and intelligible policy, and believing also that such would be the policy adopted by this House, he begged leave to second the Address.

The Address was then read, and the question put from the chair.

Mr. GRATTAN was compelled by an imperative sense of duty to object to the address which had just been proposed. He thought that there were other and better means of probing the wounds of Ireland than by the soldier's bayonet. He reprobated the atrocious crimes which had been recently perpetrated in Ireland, and felt that he was stripped of half the armour which he ought to wear in defence of his country by the deadly weapons wielded by some of its unworthy sons. The members for Ireland were not of opinion that enough had been done to relieve the distress of Ireland. They did not think that the Poor-Law had answered—they knew that it had failed—they were aware that six boards of guardians had either resigned or been superseded—they believed that the property of Ireland was gone; and, therefore, they were determined to propose an amendment calling for further relief. He then favoured the House with a glowing picture in his own peculiar style of the distress which now prevailed in Ireland, attributing it partly to absenteeism, partly to the ejection system, but principally to the union. He wished to see a solid union between Great Britain and Ireland—not an union between wealth and poverty, productive of no amalgamation between the two countries—not a mere parchment union—but an union of hearts and interests. After alluding to the overthrow of Sir R. Peel's Government, because he had introduced coercive measures without any measures of relief, he told the members of the present Administration that he would give them a coercive act now, provided that they would limit the counties in which outrages were committed, and would accompany it with some large and remedial measure. He concluded by moving an amendment declaratory of the necessity incumbent upon Government to devise immediate measures to avert pestilence and famine from a large number of her Majesty's faithful subjects in Ireland.

Mr. ROCHE rose under feelings of great shame and humiliation to address the House on this occasion. He was obliged to admit that the state of agrarian crime in six counties of Ireland was far worse than any description of it which had yet appeared in the public press. The state of poverty and social disorganization was frightful to a degree—it was not a war of class against class, but it was a complete state of social anarchy. It was, therefore, an occasion on which the second of the address should propose something more than the mere vulgar expedient of the bayonet. Yes, coercion was a vulgar expedient, and perfectly futile, as had been proved by the experience of centuries. He then proceeded to trace the prevalence of crime in Ireland to three causes:—1st. The universal poverty and distress of the people; 2ndly, the unfortunate state of the relations between landlords and tenants; and 3rdly, misgovernment, not only in past times, but also in the present conduct of the Executive. He next vindicated the people of Ireland from the charge of being assassins and murderers, and denied that there was anything in the Celtic blood which rendered those in whose veins it flowed prone to disorder and crime. He, therefore, could not accede to any Coercion Bill, until the Government had first inquired into the social evils of the country, and had afterwards done its best to remedy them. He thought that the existing law was sufficient to meet the present outrages, if that law were systematically and effectively enforced, which as yet it never had been by the present Government. After showing that the system of judicial trials in Ireland was ineffective, that the police system was equally inoperative, and that the management of the executive department of Government in Dublin was very defective, he called on the Government and Parliament to do justice to Ireland by settling the existing relations between landlords and tenants, by feeding the starving, by not letting the population die of want, and by reorganizing the executive Government in Ireland. After an explanation by Mr. ADAIR, and a counter-explanation by Mr. ROCHE.

Mr. DEMMOND suggested to Mr. Grattan the propriety of withdrawing his amendment, and called upon Ministers to muster courage to put in force their repeated promises of doing justice to Ireland. In England and in Scotland the Established Church was the church of the majority in both countries; and he could not see on what principle of justice the Established Church in Ireland should be the church of the minority. The House might vote million after million; but every vote of money would be ineffectual if it did not adopt the same principle of justice in all the three kingdoms, instead of making a difference between the people of Great Britain on the one side and that of Ireland on the other, with respect to their respective church establishments. Justice to Ireland required that its starving people should be kept alive; but then it must be by their own labour, and not by that of other parties. He denied that any proof had been offered that the Poor-Law in Ireland was a failure; the proof which Mr. Grattan had offered of that position only showed that the Irish proprietors did not like to carry it into execution. Justice to Ireland required that life should be preserved within it; and there would be no justice to Ireland until Thuggism was eradicated, and until the clerical instigators of it exercised their functions properly.

Mr. GEORGE GREY felt himself bound on the part of the Government to oppose the amendment, as it was opposed to that spirit of self-reliance which all parties who wished for its regeneration were anxious to excite in Ireland. Because a necessity existed that relief should be extended to the starving population of Ireland last year, ought the people of that country to be encouraged this year in the belief that similar relief would again be extended to them? He denied that the

Poor-Law had been a failure in Ireland; on the contrary, the exertions which had been made, in various parts of the country, to carry it into effect, fully justified the expectations of Parliament in passing that law, and the terms in which it had been spoken of in the Speech from the Throne. After entering into some detail to prove this assertion, he observed that there was a large store of grain in the Government warehouses at the end of last year, and that Government would avail itself of that store to meet any local emergency which might arise. He believed that there would be no occasion for any future advance of money to Ireland by the Government; though, on that point, he should be able to speak with more certainty as the winter advanced. He declined alluding at present to the subject of crime in Ireland, as he should be called upon to enter into it fully on an early day, when he should have to ask for leave to bring in a bill for the better security of life in that country. He considered Mr. Roche to have volunteered very unnecessarily a defence of the people of Ireland. He had seen no statement that the Irish were a people of assassins; on the contrary, he had seen several statements which induced him, and indeed every member of the Government, to believe that, in most parts of Ireland, life was as safe, and murder was as much abhorred, as in England. Mr. Roche had not done justice to the Government in his discussion on the remedial measures which ought to accompany coercion; for, in her most gracious Speech, her Majesty had recommended to the consideration of Parliament measures which, with due regard to the rights of property, were calculated to advance the social condition of the people, and tend to the permanent improvement of Ireland. Though a landlord and tenant bill was not specifically mentioned in the Queen's Speech, that subject had attracted the attention of the Lord-Lieutenant, and would be brought forward as soon as possible. He concluded by expressing a hope that all measures for the benefit of Ireland would be discussed this session without any admixture of party spirit.

Mr. JOHN O'CONNELL regretted that he could not hold out a hope to Sir G. Grey that the Address would meet with that unanimity which he so much desired; for, after the present amendment was disposed of, there would be another proposed relating to the threatened measures of coercion. He then entered into a very detailed account of the distress of Ireland, and contended that her Majesty's Ministers would be greatly disappointed, if they expected, by their new Poor-Law, to save human life in that country from great destruction. The distress was now much greater, and far more frightful, than it was last year; and something must be done at once to relieve it. It was said that Parliament was called together to consider of an Indemnity Act which was not wanted for the measures of Government with respect to the Bank. He hoped that it was not so; for it would be satisfactory to the people of Ireland to hear it avowed by Ministers that its increasing distress was the real cause of summoning Parliament at this unusual season. He complained that Ministers had been but too specific on the measures of coercion which they intended to propose. Why had they not been specific also as to their measures of relief? He deeply deplored the fact that Lord J. Russell had determined to coerce the people of Ireland before he had put the axe to the root of the various causes which produced the crimes of that country. He asked Lord J. Russell to explain the causes of the change which had come over the spirit of his dream since he had delivered his celebrated speech on the state of Ireland eighteen months ago. In conclusion he called on Ministers to exercise to the utmost the ordinary law, but not to infringe on the Constitution, nor to call for extraordinary powers before they had proved that ordinary powers were insufficient.

Sir B. HALL had expected, after the speech of Sir G. Grey, that Mr. Grattan would have withdrawn his amendment, and still believed that he would have done so, had it not been for the strange speech just delivered by Mr. J. O'Connell. It was quite monstrous that Mr. J. O'Connell should say that England had done nothing for his country, when the people of England, as he showed at some length, had done everything in their power to relieve the pestilence and famine which last year prevailed in Ireland. Why, if we had done nothing, what had Mr. J. O'Connell been doing? Something worse than nothing. Had he not, at every public meeting which he had attended, inflammatory language, which had acted as an incentive to incendiarism and assassination? No wonder, then, that he was so anxious that no Coercion Bill should be passed, and that he had declared that "he would die on the floor of the House of Commons before such a bill was passed." He then took a review of the state to which Ireland had been reduced by the different agitators who now distrusted it, and condemned their annual menace of bringing the question of Repeal before Parliament, without ever enforcing it, as one of the most monstrous pieces of political humbug which had ever been displayed before an admiring world. He fully believed that, had it not been for the member for Nottingham (Mr. F. O'Connor) and the member for Stafford, the same game would have been played again by the Irish Repeal members this session. He then adverted to the amendment, which, in reality, was a call upon us to give more money to Ireland; and declared, as the representative of one of the largest English constituencies, that he would not grant a single farthing to the relief of the distress in Ireland, until he found that all the means of Ireland were exhausted.

Mr. M. O'CONNELL contended that the Irish members would be able to defeat the Coercion Bill now, as they had done in 1846, without the necessity of any person dying on the floor.

Mr. S. CRAWFORD considered that the declaration of Sir G. Grey, that the Government intended to introduce a measure on the landlord and tenant question, was very far from satisfactory; for the very same declaration had been made last session, and no benefit had resulted from it. He complained of the neglect with which British statesmen and the British Legislature treated this important question, which was at the bottom of all the disorders of Ireland. As to the amendment, he had only to say, that, believing the resources of Ireland to be sufficient for the relief of the people of that country, he should be the last man in the world to drain a single farthing from the hard-worked artisans of England for the purpose of relieving the landlords of Ireland from the discharge of those duties which their property entailed upon them.

Sir W. SOMERVILLE considered this amendment to be unnecessary, and hoped that Mr. Grattan would consent to withdraw it. He was forced to admit the existence both of distress and of crime in Ireland; but the crime was of a local character, and was confined to the counties of Limerick, Clare, Roscommon, King's County, and Tipperary. He called upon the House, whilst it was convened, to condemn the misconduct of part of Ireland, not to forget the patience and abstinence from crime of the inhabitants of the western coast of Ireland, who had been visited with a calamity such as had scarcely ever visited men before. He described the Famine Act as having perfectly succeeded; he explained the manner in which that law had been a failure.

Mr. S. O'BRIEN declared his intention of supporting the Address, and of waiting till he saw what the measures of Government were, before he ventured to condemn them. The evil which they had to deal with in Ireland was not a solitary crime, nor solitary assassination, but the sympathy and connivance of the lower classes with the perpetrators of such outrages. As a proof of this, he detailed the circumstances which attended the attempted assassination of Mr. Bayley, and created great excitement in the House by an eloquent description of the refusal of the peasantry to give any assistance to that gentleman, in his frightful state of mutilation.

Mr. FEARGUS O'CONNOR observed that the object of calling Parliament together now was to give stability to the money-market, but that object would be defeated by the declarations of the Government respecting the state of Ireland. Coercion Bill after Coercion Bill had been proposed for Ireland, but no improvement of its social condition had followed any one of them. He advised the House to give the tenantry of Ireland a perpetuity of tenure. That measure would throw the people of Ireland on their own resources, they would then be able to support themselves, and to take the idlers off the land. He deprecated such speeches as that of Sir B. Hall, defended the conduct of Archdeacon Laffan, and concluded by declaring that he would sit, sleep, and even die, in the House, in opposing coercive measures.

Mr. GRATTAN then withdrew his amendment.

Mr. HERRIES insisted that the commercial distress of the country, and the interference of the Government with the Bank for the purpose of relieving it, required more notice from some Member of the

use of his position at Lisbon to obtain arrears due to him by the Portuguese Government.

In reply to Mr. GLADSTONE,

Sir G. GREY promised that correspondence relative to New Zealand should be shortly laid on the table.

The usual sessional orders were agreed to without discussion.

On the bringing up of the Report on the Address,

Lord G. BENTINCK demanded to know if it was the intention of the Government to give a full explanation to the House of those circumstances which induced her Majesty to authorise her Ministers to advise the Bank of England to infringe the Act of 1844?

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that, although personally ready to enter into the explanations at once, he considered it would be more convenient to postpone his statement to Tuesday next.

#### REPORT ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. HEYWOOD moved that the report of the Committee on the Address be brought up.

Mr. OSBORNE wished, before the report was brought up, to make a few observations, which, he believed, would be quite in accordance with the forms of that House. Although, on ordinary occasions, he might not indulge in criticisms on those prologues of the session which were generally contrived to contain the smallest quantity of promise in the greatest quantity of words; yet, when he recollects the unparalleled state of affairs under which the Parliament had been called together, he should offer no apology to the House for the observations he was about to offer. When they considered the depression of commerce, the state of society in Ireland, when they looked at the state of the political horizon of Europe, it could hardly be considered presumptuous in a member of that House to address his attention to such a state of things. The depression of trade was not a local but an imperial question. If English trade were depressed the consequences were felt in Ireland. He would ask whether, if trade in England had last year been as depressed as it was at the present moment, a loan of ten millions would have been so freely granted to Ireland? He should never be satisfied until trade was put on a sure and steady basis. With respect to the currency, he thought that Government had acted wisely in granting a Committee, but at the same time he felt that unnecessary odium had been incurred. He believed that throughout the whole panic only three banks of issue had failed. He next came to European politics, and here he would remind the House that her Majesty expressed her deep concern at the state of affairs in Switzerland. But it should be remembered that the example we had set in the previous year by interfering in the affairs of Portugal, afforded a very good precedent for the autocra of Austria's threatened interference with the internal arrangements of Switzerland. He trusted, however, that the result of the exercise of the influence of her Majesty's Government with her allies, to restore peace to Switzerland, would be followed by a different kind of mediation to that which had been adopted with regard to Portugal, and that liberty of conscience would not be violated, nor the right of the majority of the federal states to rule the other cantons be disputed. The next paragraph in the Speech stated that her Majesty looked with confidence to the maintenance of the general peace of Europe. If that paragraph expressed the opinion of the noble Lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and if the noble Lord, taking into consideration the present state of Spain, Portugal, France, and Switzerland, really looked with confidence on the maintenance of the peace of Europe, he must, indeed, be blessed with a superabundance of nerve. In connection with this subject, it would be his (Mr. Osborne's) duty, on a future day, to call the attention of Parliament to the present disgraceful state of our national defences. Upon the next paragraph—that which referred to the treaty with the Equador—all he would say was, that of all the serious humbugs we had ever engaged in, our attempt to put down the slave trade was the worst; and the consequence of our interference was, to promote the horrors of the traffic, instead of preventing them. (Hear, hear.) He hoped, ere long, this question would be brought under the consideration of the House, in order that the people of this country might no longer be called upon to pay money which in effect added to the horrors of the traffic in slaves. He would now advert to the subject of Ireland, which formed a prominent part of the Royal Speech. On this subject he was sorry to observe in the debate of the previous night symptoms of an antagonistic spirit in the House, which could do no good, but might be productive of serious evils. In what observations he might have occasion to make he should endeavour to imitate the example of the right hon. Secretary for Ireland, whose tone and temper in speaking upon the subject deserved the highest credit. (Hear, hear.) The House should remember that every indiscreet word spoken now might be fraught with consequences which no one could foresee. (Hear, hear.) With regard to that body of ecclesiastics whose conduct in the course of that debate had been adverted to, the great majority of them he knew to be sound in principle and exemplary in conduct; and though, as in all such bodies, there were no doubt amongst them some designing men, it would be altogether a mistake to suppose that, as a body, they were not the sincere and consistent friends of peace and order. This being his opinion, it was with great pain he had heard the speech of Archdeacon Laffan—which he did not, for a moment, defend—spoken of as it had been on the previous evening. Archdeacon Laffan was a man of excitable temperament (a laugh); and, he knew, that, for some time past, he had been in bad health, which might account, in some degree, for the expressions which had been quoted. (Hear, hear, and laughter); but, he also knew that the rev. gentleman, on the previous Sunday, had preached from the altar a sermon, denouncing, in the strongest terms, assassination and outrage. (Hear, hear.) He now came to that paragraph which spoke of Irish distress. Her Majesty, while lamenting the existence of such distress, "trusted that it would be materially relieved by the exertions which have been made to carry into effect the law of last session for the support of the destitute poor." The right hon. the Secretary for Ireland had told them that he expected that, by means of the Poor-Law, three-fourths of the poverty of Ireland would be diminished, and that that measure, upon the whole, had been successful. In some districts, he admitted, that the law had worked well; but, by a recent indiscreet and hasty circular, which had issued from the Secretary's office in Dublin, not only the Poor-Law, but the peace of the country, so far as the south of Ireland was concerned, had been imperilled. Within the last three weeks a circular had been issued, ordering, in direct violation of the Act of Parliament itself, the rates collected under the Poor-Law to be paid into the hands of the Civil Paymaster in Dublin. It was almost impossible to describe the injurious effect of this order, and the difficulties it was calculated to throw in the way of the working of the law. In many parts of Tipperary the law was working well, though in some the rate was so high that it was almost impossible for the property to bear it. In his own district it had increased, since 1843, from £14,000 to £30,000. Her Majesty also stated, that she had "learnt with satisfaction that the landed proprietors have taken advantage of the means placed at their disposal by the liberality of Parliament for the improvement of land." This was a most extraordinary paragraph to be put into her Majesty's Speech. True it was that many applications had been made for advances from the million loan; he believed in two instances only, had any advance been granted. One noble Lord having extensive estates in the south of Ireland, and who had devoted much of his time and attention to the improvement of the condition of the people, had applied for an advance of £20,000, but he had been unsuccessful, though he told him that, unless advances were made, it would be impossible to give employment to the people, or to improve the land. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances, he thought it right to inquire of the Government, whether there was any money in the Treasury out of which these advances could be made? If cultivation was to proceed in Ireland, the Government must, by some means or other, perform their part of the bargain into which they had entered, and lodge the million of money for the purpose. In discussing the next point in the Speech upon which he wished to touch—that which referred to the spirit of insubordination which had manifested itself in Ireland, "leading to an organised resistance to legal rights," he should endeavour to forget that he was himself an Irish landlord, and to approach it in a larger and more liberal spirit. He could, however, assure the hon. member for Kilkenny (Mr. J. O'Connell) that, if his arrears of rent were paid into Conciliation Hall, he would not have to find fault with him for many years to come. Looking at all the circumstances of the case, so far, indeed, from being surprised at the present state of Ireland, his surprise was, that the country was not in a still worse condition. He hoped the Government would be found equal to the occasion, and that they would bring forward measures, not of a tinkering, but of a constructive character, by means of which society in Ireland might be constructed *de novo*. The previous legislation of this country rendered this an act of only strict justice to that country. If the Government here would follow out the spirit which had been already evinced by the present Lord-Lieutenant, Ireland would be in safe hands. (Hear, hear.) He could not go with those honourable gentlemen who had cast reflections on Lord Clarendon because of the suggestions he had made for the improvement of agriculture, and the mode he had adopted for carrying these suggestions into effect. Though lectures upon that subject might be but of little use in the south, there were districts in which they might be of material service. While on the subject of the state of Ireland, he should fail in his duty if he omitted to state that, in the five counties to which reference had been made as the most disturbed, the outrages were not wholly of an agrarian character. Well he knew that in some instances many of the poorer classes were living under a system of terror, and he could state cases in which poor men had been thrown into bogs, and drains, and otherwise made the victims of that system. For the most part the outrages originated with a few men, whose object was to obtain possession of the land by any means and at all hazards, and though he believed the great body of the tenantry were sound and peacefully disposed, it was in the power of a few to carry on this system of terror throughout the country. Before he could give his support to a Coercion Bill he must know what were the measures the Government intended to propose for the better ordering of society in Ireland. (Hear, hear.) Though he had great confidence in Lord Clarendon, and had no objection to strengthen the hands of the Government, he should fail in his duty if, without a knowledge of what other measures were to be brought forward, he was to rush to the conclusion that a Coercion Act was the proper remedy for the existing evil. It was doubtful whether the law as it stood might not be made effectual for repressing outrage in the five disturbed counties; at all events, coercion alone would be no sufficient remedy. Neither did he think that a measure for securing what was called tenant right would go to the root of the evil; for while the tenants were badly fed, wretchedly clothed, and worse paid, they could scarcely hope to have perfect security for life and property. (Cheers.) Unless means were adopted for bettering the condition of the agricultural labourer, no mere measure of tenant-right would be of any avail. He admitted, at the same time, that some measure of the kind was due, in justice to the tenants not only of Ireland, but of England also, and he would gladly give his support to a bill which should have the effect of placing the relation of landlord and tenant on a better footing. He regretted that no mention was made in the Speech of her Majesty to a measure which, if carried, would do more to serve

Ireland than all the others put together—he meant a measure for facilitating the sale of encumbered estates. (Cheers.) Unless they could free the land from those shackles which now prevented its being thrown into the market, they would never succeed in establishing perfect tranquillity in the country. He now came to the question of the Church of Ireland; and, though he might be told this was not the proper moment to moot the question, he should, nevertheless, refer to it, believing that now was the time when it was in the power of the Legislature to take measures for placing the whole state of society in Ireland on a different and a better footing. He did not desire to see the abolition of the Established Church in Ireland; but he thought that, by placing it on a congregational, instead of a territorial footing, they would pave the way to a better state of things. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, in reference to himself, he would say to the hon. Member for Kilkeny, that he did wrong in listening to reports not properly authenticated; but he would ask him to permit him (Mr. Osborne) to carry out his own good intentions, and he had no doubt that those intentions would hereafter be properly appreciated, and that he should no longer be obliged to continue in the unenviable character of an absentee.

Lord GEORGE BENTINCK then rose and said—Sir, notwithstanding that my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has said that it is contrary to the custom of this House to enter into a debate upon the report of the Address, I apprehend that it is altogether consistent with the forms of Parliament, and that it would be much more inconsistent with the custom of this House, and much more inconsistent with the feelings of the country (hear, hear), if, when the whole mind of England is full of the commercial distress which now exists, and when the mind of England is looking with the deepest anxiety for some explanation from the Government of the course which they mean to take with regard to the restriction of the Bank Charter Act, that her Majesty's Ministers should be altogether silent upon the entire subject; and when, in the first three paragraphs which relate to the distress, we are told, in her Majesty's name, which, as I think, is put forth unconstitutionally as a protection to her Ministers, that her Majesty has advised her Ministers to assist the Directors of the Bank of England to break through the law, that neither the noble Lord at the head of the Government nor the right hon. gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer should vouchsafe to explain to this House and the country, the circumstances which induced them to give that advice to the Bank. But, more than all, I am sure that the country will be but ill satisfied if we allow this answer to the Speech to be presented to her Majesty without having some explanation from the Government of the reasons which, for the first time in the history of this country, have induced them to propose a new usury law, of which the tendency is, not to reduce the rate of usury, but to add to it—(hear, hear); when, for the first time, her Majesty's Ministers have thought fit, without the consent of Parliament, to raise taxes from the people in a way which, I am quite sure, is most odious to the feelings of the country. (Hear, hear.) These are reasons, I think, quite sufficient for calling upon her Majesty's Ministers to give a full and complete statement of all the circumstances which induced them to fix upon the 25th of October, neither sooner nor later, to apply this relief to the country. My right hon. friend said last night that the debate had taken an Irish turn, and that at that hour of the evening, at seven minutes before twelve, he could not be expected to make the long statement to the House with which he had come prepared. I, for one, do not regret, and sure I am that none of the English members regret, that the subject of Irish distress was put forth so prominently in the Speech from the Throne, and that the subject of Irish distress took even precedence of the not less distress with which England is now afflicted. (Hear, hear.) Sure I am that, impatient as the country is to have some explanation from her Majesty's Ministers of the course which they intend to take with respect to the restrictions of the Bank Charter Act, yet neither will it regret to learn that the ear of the House has been first turned to the subject of Irish distress. (Hear, hear.) But at the same time I must say that, if this Address had been reported and consented to without a full explanation by the Government of all the circumstances which led to their recent measures, bitter would be the disappointment throughout the country. (Hear, hear.) Sir, it will be in the recollection of the House, that at an early period in the last session, the right hon. gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in bringing his financial Budget before the House, entered into a high eulogium of the advantages of the Bank Charter Act. It will be in the recollection of the House that he was loudly called upon by many of my friends, and by a petition from the merchants of the City of London, and by various petitions from the merchants and the manufacturers of almost every great city throughout England and Scotland, to relax those Bank restrictions. But my right hon. friend said that the worst was over (hear, hear); and, although it had been my intention to have moved the repeal or the mitigation of that act, the unexpected dissolution of the Parliament left me no time for taking such a course. It will be recollect that, at a later period, in the month of September, a deputation presented itself to the right hon. gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, from Newcastle. That was at a period when already the value of the property of the houses that had fallen in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, approached nearly to £10,000,000 sterling. They then, foreseeing results, applied to the right hon. gentleman to remit those Bank restrictions which made it difficult to get the best bills discounted. What was the answer of the right hon. gentleman? Why, that he could not be expected to guard against the consequences of over-trading and excessive speculation, and that there was nobody who did not know that there was no undue pressure in the money market as regarded houses in good credit. (Hear, hear.) Why, good God! this was at the very time when Exchequer Bills were at 2s. discount—when the power of the Bank of England to continue its payments began to be doubted—and when, amongst the houses in bad credit, was the Exchequer Office itself, whose bills subsequently went to 40s. discount. (Cheers.) But still the right hon. gentleman was obdurate. Again, on Friday, I believe the 22nd of October, another deputation waited on the right hon. gentleman, from Liverpool; and what said the right hon. gentleman to them? Why, he told them, as they left the room, that he could give them no hope. Time went on, and on Saturday, the 23rd October, certain bankers and others of the City of London waited on the noble Lord, and the right hon. member for Tamworth came to town. I do not know whether he appeared there in the character of *amicus curiae*, or whether he tendered his advice on that occasion; but suddenly we found that the Government had begun to relent. It was reported—I know not with what truth—that at the same time, Mr. Pease, who once was a member of this House, came up from Northumberland, and paid a visit to the noble Earl (Earl Grey) at the head of the Colonial Department, and to the right hon. gentleman who now represents Northumberland.

Sir G. GREY: That is quite incorrect.

Lord G. BENTINCK: Then, how necessary is it that we should have correct information. (Hear, hear.) The rumour has long passed current, that her Majesty's Ministers, who were obdurate to the cries of the cities of London, Liverpool, and Manchester, listened to the cry that came in an appropriate moment from Northumberland and Durham—that the Northumberland and Durham District Bank was on the point of stopping—and that unless the restriction was taken off the Bank of England, on the Saturday week following, there would not be a collier in Northumberland or Durham who would receive his week's wages; and that it was in consequence of this interview with the noble Lord and the right hon. gentleman (who was supposed to have been significantly told that he knew what the colliers of Northumberland and Durham were) that was conceded to the wants of Northumberland and Durham what had been previously refused to the United Kingdom. (Hear, hear.) Was it not important, then, if this were not true, as we now hear, that we should learn what it really was that induced the Government, on the 23rd of October—(cheers)—by which time Houses had failed to the amount of something nearer £15,000,000 than £10,000,000—to consent to take off that restriction from the Bank which immediately gave relaxation to the chains with which commerce was bound? I think we are at least entitled to hear from her Majesty's Government first what were the immediate causes that induced them, at this particular period, to give way; while they had refused at those earlier periods, when, if they had conceded what the commercial interests of the country demanded of them, they might have warded off a large portion of the subsequent distress. We have a right to know why it was that her Majesty's Government postponed so long that urgent measure of relief? (Hear, hear.) Sir, in the course of that which I may call this debate—for though by courtesy we did allow the Address to be voted last night, it was because we felt that it was better to distinguish between English and Irish interests in this matter, and that, inasmuch as an Irish amendment had been moved at the first opportunity, and that an amendment, in the proper course, would come before the consideration of those paragraphs relating to the banking interests of this country, it would be better to take the discussion on them at another stage—no compromise, that I have heard of, was entered into;—the right hon. gentleman, at seven minutes before twelve, thought that was not a convenient opportunity, and therefore postponed his explanation till Tuesday; but there was no agreement, that I heard, that this debate should be taken on Tuesday. (Hear, hear.) Sir, the hon. gentleman who moved this Address, attributed all the distress, or the greater portion of it, to the enormous sums that had been laid out in railways. This was a very convenient argument. I am not surprised to hear a Free-Trade Government and the political economists join in the cry that it is the railways that have brought on these difficulties. That there are difficulties nobody disputes. So gloomy a speech never was made by any Sovereign to a people as that we are considering now. But when the hon. gentleman says that £161,000,000 have been spent on railways, and that it is impossible that any country should bear such a drain as that, he forgets to tell us that expenditure took place in the course of twenty years. (Hear, hear.) There was laid on the table of the House at the latter end of last session a return showing the sum total that had been spent on railway works and stock, of course exclusive of land, for it must be clear that any money paid for land was merely transferred from one to the other, and could not be considered a drain on the country; and it appeared that the entire sum spent up to the 1st of January, 1847, amounted in round numbers to £82,000,000—that of this £32,000,000 had been expended prior to 1841; and consequently, that £52,000,000 were expended in the five years between 1841 and 1846. An hon. gentleman—I don't know where he gets his authority—stated that the sum expended now amounts to £161,000,000. I believe the sum scored up amounts to £33,000,000 in the present year, but that of six or seven millions is in arrear. The result is that in the present year about £26,000,000, with perhaps £7,000,000, making altogether £33,000,000, is to be added to the £50,000,000 expended between 1841 and the present time. So you have altogether £85,000,000 sterling, at the outside, spent in the period between 1840 and the present time—that is, in seven years, or about 12½ millions a year. Then are we to be told that this country, after thirty-two years of peace, is reduced to that state of poverty and distress that it cannot

spend at the rate of 12½ millions a year without being brought to the verge of ruin? (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman appealed triumphantly to the statement of the sum expended. Why, has he forgotten what was expended in the period of the war? (Hear, hear.) We are told there has been a great famine. That is true, and large are the sums gone out of the country in payment of imported provisions: but is it not the system of free imports that has drained the gold out of the country, and brought on this distress? (Hear, hear.) It is not from the high price of corn. The price of corn in the last seven years of the war averaged 94s. 6d., and yet we were able to raise every year £70,000,000 sterling at a fair average, and by taxes alone, whilst from loans we raised in those same seven years, I think, £189,000,000. About £70,000,000 a year were raised in taxes, and we spent them, and about £26,000,000 a year in loans, and we spent them too, and yet were we poverty-stricken then? Were we a humbled and a ruined nation then? Was England then a spectacle of bankruptcy and shame? (Hear, hear.) Did Englishmen then cry out that they were ruined, and could do no more? In the last year of the war—in 1815—we were able to raise a property tax of £15,000,000, to keep 207 regular and 87 militia regiments in the field, besides 140,000 seamen and marines; and are we now to be told that we cannot pay 300,000 railway labourers, and that in doing so we have brought the country to the verge of ruin? (Hear, hear, and cheers.) It is well for the Government to raise this outcry against railways. It is well for those Free-Traders who promised so much to have some scapegoat on which to visit their sins; but how is it that the like is not said in the United States, in Belgium, in France, in Prussia, in Bavaria, and in Russia. All these countries have been engaged in railway operations, and, so far at least as the Continent is concerned, to an extent not inferior to ours, and yet these countries are not bankrupt. We have received just now a speech delivered within these few days by King Leopold, of Belgium, in which he congratulates his country—the famine being over—that Belgium has got over her financial crisis far more successfully than neighbouring countries. (Hear, hear.) We have also the speech of the King of Holland to their high mightinesses the States General, in which he congratulates them on the favourable state of their finances, and that prosperity showing itself again. We had also a speech three months ago, when the harvest was scarcely completed, of the Minister of Finance of France, M. Dumont, who, when asking the sanction of the French Chamber for a loan of £10,000,000 sterling, entered upon a discussion as to what was needed for the purpose of the French railways. He stated the sum at £4,000,000 of francs; and he stated the large sum that had been already spent; but did he speak of national bankruptcy, of a failing revenue, and of manufacturers and labourers out of employment? No; he congratulated the country that every year from 1830 to 1840, the revenue of France had been annually increasing, by something like £400,000; that since the state had assisted private industry, by large advances upon railways during the last seven years, the revenue of France had annually increased by 23,000,000, or about £950,000 a year, and he also congratulated the Chamber that the temporary depression which had existed in 1846, on account of the famine, had already passed away, and that prosperity and the revenue of France were again on the ascendant. (Hear, hear.) I am reminded, too, of the state of the French funds. The French Three per Cent, which used to stand about 13 below the English funds, now stood but 9 per cent. below the price of the Three per Cent. Consols. (Hear, hear.) Look where we will—to Prussia, for instance, we witness the same thing—her revenue is actually increasing; and though her population during the last 30 years since the war has increased by half, her debt is reduced almost to nothing. Every year she is able to pay off a large portion of it, and her exports are also, annually increasing. (Hear, hear.) Look at the other states. In Bavaria it is the same. That country is remarkable for the encouragement of railways, and other similar measures, yet in Bavaria, I think, the exports within the last ten years have more than doubled, having increased in the proportion of nine to four; and she is able to pay off a large portion of debt, her revenue being considerably greater than her expenditure. (Hear, hear.) Then, is there distress in Russia? It may be said that the famine did not extend there; but we used to hear that Russia was so poor that it was impossible she could go to war again. Yet here we were looking anxiously for the determination of his Imperial Majesty, and glad to receive the contribution of some £5,000,000 to the funds of western Europe, and yet we heard the other day that, instead of finding his coffers denuded, he had subsequently discovered no less than £3,500,000 of gold in them. (Hear, hear.) Then how is it that the same causes have not had the same effect on central Europe as we are told they had in England? What is the difference between this and foreign countries? Why, there are two great differences. Not one of these central powers had departed from the old national principle of protecting their own industry—(cheers)—not one of these countries has consented to be so easily deprived of its privileges and advantages—not one of them has consented to reduce the import duties on the goods of foreigners without imposing some equivalent in return. (Hear, hear.) Yet their mills are not standing still, their artisans are not thrown out of employment, nor are their industrious labourers thrown for subsistence on the poor-rate. They, on the contrary, are carrying on their manufactures to the exclusion of England. At this very moment, their manufacturers are purchasing cotton from England, and, during this year and the last, they have purchased more cotton at Liverpool than at any preceding period. They have purchased it, too, at a loss to the British merchant—at 1d. per lb. below the price at which it is selling in any country where it is either sold or produced—at 1d. per lb. below the price at which it can be bought at Charleston or New Orleans, and imported to Liverpool. Within the last six weeks I know that merchants at Liverpool have exported 22,000 bales of cotton at a loss of £88,000, and in the preceding year at a further loss of £100,000, to be a premium, a bonus, a bounty to the foreign manufacturer to come here and beat Englishmen in their own market. (Hear, hear.) Is it because we have more cotton now than we know what to do with? For eight years the stocks of cotton in Liverpool have never been so low as they are at the present time. That is a fact acknowledged on all hands. Hon. gentlemen on the other side have alleged the shortness of the cotton crop as the cause of commercial distress in this country; that the manufacturers cannot carry on their trade because of that shortness; and that the country is

the currency and free imports—that England which not long since—in 1845—had touched the pinnacle of wealth and prosperity, and was the envy and admiration for her riches of surrounding nations—now presenting the lamentable spectacle of shame, bankruptcy, and disgrace, with the finger of scorn pointed at her in every commercial city from New York to Canton—we see those nations which have acted upon an opposite policy flourishing, opulent, respected, and happy. And yet, when the merchants of England, who are participants in this ruin, but not in the disgrace, came to you, and asked you as a Government to relax your monetary restrictions, to the end that those who had property might have the opportunity of disposing of it without a loss—to the end that those who had cotton, and sugar, and woollen cloths, and teas, might be enabled to sell them—and asked you as a means to that end to let them have money at a reasonable rate of interest, what did you do? Sir, her Majesty's Ministers held back upon that occasion, refusing to set the Bank of England at liberty, and calmly waited until the trade and commerce of the country were on the brink of a precipice, over which a moment's delay might precipitate them. Then it was, and only then, they came forward to assist the general distress. But how did they act on that occasion? Instead of doing as a great Minister had done in former times—instead of doing as Mr. Pitt did in 1793, when the trade and commerce of the country was similarly circumstanced to what it is at present—namely, advance £5,000,000 sterling at the rate of £3 17s. 4d. per cent., though it was said the Government themselves had borrowed it at 4 per cent.; instead of acting in this manner, they acted in a manner totally different, for they actually raised the rate of interest. Sir, I remember well when I proposed in the course of the last year a measure for the relief of Ireland, which involved the advance of a sum of money upon loan to the railway companies of that kingdom.—I remember I was told upon that occasion that her Majesty's Government could not turn money-lenders. (Hear.) But, Sir, what are they now? What are they now but money-lenders, money-changers, and usurers. I believe it was never known that any Government of any country proposed to wring money, and make a heavy profit upon the necessities of that country. (Hear, hear.) We are told in the Sacred Volume that if we lend money to the poor we shall not be usurers. But, Sir, the Government have contravened that command, for they have turned usurers; and the fatal effects of their act are to be found in every part of the country. The money-lender who was deterred from asking too high a price for his article of trade has been only too ready to follow the example set by the Government on this occasion, and extort what he could from those who needed his assistance. When the Government fixed the interest of money at the exorbitant sum of 8 per cent., the money-lender had a high example to keep him in countenance while he obtained all that was possible. The price of money had accordingly risen in the market. The best bonds in Scotland, formerly done at five per cent., are now charged six-and-a-half, while the same relative proportion of increase has taken place in all parts of the Empire. The whole country has been taxed at a sum equivalent to 1½ per cent. upon its property by the measure of the Government, more, in fact, than if it had to pay an Income Tax of 10 per cent. Assuming the whole land of the country to be mortgaged at one-third of its value—and I believe that to be below the actual amount; the land of Ireland has been valued at £20,000,000, and it is mortgaged to the extent of £9,000,000 a year. Suppose the land of England then to be mortgaged to the extent of one-third of its value, the Property and Income Tax returns will tell you that an increase of 11 per cent. on that rent is equivalent to a tax of £120,000,000 a year on the property of England and Scotland. But all the trades and occupations of the country are taxed in an equal degree by this act of her Majesty's Government, and, therefore, this increase of 1½ per cent. on the usual and ordinary rate of interest on money cannot be less than £25,000,000 a year levied on the property and the industry of the country. Well then, Sir, the Government being accessories before the fact to this enactment of a higher rate of interest than hitherto prevailed in this country—to an act of usury, in fact, upon the nation—are we to be told that it is not for the convenience of the House of Commons that its time should be taken up on the second night of the session in asking and receiving explanations on the subject from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the First Lord of the Treasury? The noble Lord and the right hon. gentleman seem to have taken all the *Shylocks* and the *Sir Giles Overreaches* of the City into their confidence, in connection with this question of the rate of interest; for they only seek to exact the largest sum they possibly can obtain from the necessities of the country. They would appear to have adopted the ideas as well as the language of *Sir Giles Overreach*, especially when he says—"all men must be made sellers, and I shall be the only purchaser." One would imagine, Sir, that the original authors of the Bank Charter Act and the monied interest of the City had colluded together and determined to have the whole of the trade, commerce, and landed property of the country transferred to their hands. Lord Bacon says that "usury will soon bring all the treasure of a country into a few hands; inasmuch as the usurer being at certainties, and the borrower at uncertainties, the end must soon be that all the money shall come into the box." This, Sir, is the end of their measures. Their object is to transfer all the landed property of the country into the hands of those who trade in money—to transfer it from one set of individuals to another without a sufficient reason. Are we, then, in the face of this fact, to sit down with folded arms and seek for no explanation of the causes which produced it? Are we not to ask her Majesty's Government for the grounds on which they hold to the injurious Bank Charter Act, when the condition of the country is at the worst, and, in relaxing it at the last, only do so for the purpose of exciting the Bank of England to exact such an amount of interest—such usury—as was never known in this country, at least for the last century. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I will not enter anew on the affairs of Ireland at this moment, further than to say that her Majesty's Government must make themselves responsible for the preservation of the public peace in that country. I shall postpone any expression of opinion upon their policy with regard to it until I see the measures which they mean to introduce to the House. I trust, however, that they will not present the miserable spectacle to the country of one set of men turning out another set upon a particular point of policy, and then, in their capacity as a Ministry, governing by the very principles of those they had expelled. (Hear.) I trust, also, that whatever measure may be introduced, it will not be a *Curfew Act*, to shut up men in their houses at night, in order to deter them from the commission of mid-day murders. But, Sir, while I am prepared to support all useful measures for Ireland, I shall, as I have said, withhold any expression of opinion upon the policy of the Government until their statement is before the House. Neither shall I trouble the House by reviewing the foreign policy of her Majesty's Government on the present occasion; though I am willing to admit that they maintained a prudent silence in respect to their interference in the affairs of Portugal, as well as in regard to their course in Italy, about which they are similarly reserved. When, however, her Majesty's Speech says that a treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade has been obtained from the Government of Ecuador, I cannot help thinking that it would have been far more prudent if they had maintained a profound silence upon that subject. The hon. mover of the Address, in alluding to this treaty, described it as another link knocked off the chain which fettered the limbs of the negro. But, Sir, I should very much like to know how many thousands of links have been added to that galling chain, by the introduction of slave-grown sugar into the markets of this country? (Hear.) I should be glad, Sir, to hear, upon official authority, what is the actual amount of increase in the slave trade, before I assent to that proposition. We do certainly read in a newspaper—which is supposed to have occasional information from head-quarters—that the increase in the slave trade has been fully fivefold; that the captures have increased fivefold, and that the escapes have been in the same proportion, fivefold. We likewise know that, since the introduction of slave-grown sugar into this country, the price of a negro has risen in Brazil and in Cuba from 300 to 500 dollars. I am curious, I confess, to know the actual facts. Then, again, there is the export of rice from the Mauritius. It seemed to be feared that this export, if unchecked, would reduce the Mauritius to the condition of another Ireland. There were fears of ninety-three thousand coolies being without employment and wanting bread, for rice was the food on which they lived. To avert this, we see Earl Grey establishing a Government bank, issuing notes, and making advances, as we are told, on 9050 tons of sugar, in order that the coolies and the slaves of the Mauritius may be kept alive. Thus we see the noble Lord, with his metallic-currency notions at home (hear, hear, and laughter), issuing 10s. notes, or assignats in the Mauritius. (Hear, hear.) If we do not have an explanation from her Majesty's Ministers of the course of policy adopted by the Government with reference to the Mauritius and the West Indies, more especially as her Majesty congratulated the country, in the last session, on the advantages of having obtained cheap sugar. Sir, there are few men, however obtuse their intellects, who cannot understand how the failures of the sugar planters in the West Indies and the East Indies—the bankrupt houses of sugar merchants, with their bills returned to Manchester, must have operated to produce their effect on the commercial interests of the country. Within a very short period the rates of Manchester have been more than doubled. The poor-rate in 1835, during a time of prosperity, was only £175,000. How does the existing distress arise? Why, from the dishonoured bills of the ruined sugar and corn merchants. These bills, given in payment of goods, are worthless, and the result is, there is no money to give to the millowner for the purpose of employing the people. And if it be true that during the last ten or eleven months there has been an increase in the exportation of our manufactures to the United States of 7000 packages, the Canadas, the West Indies, and the East Indies show a terrible balance on the other side. (Hear, hear.) You have increased on one side 7000 packages; you have lost 30,000 packages on the other—(hear); and this is the balance of trade, the balance of that great scheme of Free Trade from which so much was promised. And, Sir, when we see that her Majesty's speech goes on to recommend to the Legislature the further consideration of the Navigation Laws—(hear, hear); I do think prudence requires that the noble Lord with all his courage ought to hold his ruthless hand. Let us first see how Free Trade measures work a little. Let us recollect how we were told by the right hon. Baronet (Sir R. Peel) and the member for Stockport in 1845, when the Property and Income Tax was renewed, that such was the elasticity imparted to trade and commerce and the industry of the country by his (Sir R. Peel's) commercial measures, that at the expiry of the next spring, he hoped to dispense with the Income and Property Tax. (Hear, hear.) Let us now pause, when we are told in her Majesty's Speech that she regrets the injury which the revenue has received—let us pause, Sir, before we proceed in this losing course. (Loud cheers.) Let us remember, if we believe the evidence laid before the Committee of the Navigation Laws, that this question concerns no less than £38,000,000 invested in ships alone, and £14,000,000 invested in other trades connected with shipping. Let us bear in mind that the freights of shipping alone amount to £28,000,000 yearly, and that the annual expenditure is not less than £26,000,000. When such a mighty interest is concerned, without going into the general question, I cannot consent to allow the Address to her Majesty to pass to the form of Report without entering my protest against proceeding further in this same rapid course. (Hear, hear.) Sir, her Majesty's Speech tells us she has given directions to have the estimates laid before the House framed with a careful regard to economy. Sir, I rejoice at this

language. I feared, from the circumstances of the times, that some proposition for a new tax would have been made. I hope, however, I may congratulate the country on the pleasant prospect of her Majesty's Government being able to dispense with a fresh imposition. (Laughter.) I would fain hope, as the Property and Income Tax expires in the course of next spring, that her Majesty's Ministers even contemplate the possibility of being enabled to dispense with it. (Laughter.) I confess, however, I do not see daylight at present, unless her Majesty's Ministers are pleased to retrace their steps. The hon. member for Lancashire, however, only can see one ray of sunshine—one ray of light to illumine the gloom and distress of Manchester. If the honourable mover and the hon. seconder could hold out no greater hopes of better times than they had, then, indeed, there are but small hopes of improvement for the country to entertain. (Hear.) How changed are the auspices under which we commence this session, and those under which we commenced the session of 1846. (Hear.) Then her Majesty in person appeared among us—then her Majesty permitted her Royal Consort to honour the Commons by sitting among them, in order to grace the pageant and the triumphant procession by which Free Trade was ushered in. (Hear.) High promises were made, high expectations were raised. One hon. gentleman is not in his place. (Hear.) I am surprised not to see the honourable member for the West Riding and Stockport here at this moment when the dark picture of our distress is placed before us. Sir, were that hon. member here, I think he would consider it to be his duty to explain to the House how it is that all his promises and vows have been so completely broken. (Hear.) I remember in 1841 the hon. member's celebrated address to the people: it was followed up by 416 tons of tracts circulated in the course of the existence of the Anti-Corn-Law League. That hon. member told us in his address it was only necessary to abolish the unchristian Corn-Laws, and within two months from the passing of the bill, he prophesied that flour would be at six farthings a pound, that there would be increased employment, advanced wages, every mill would be employed, churches and chapels would arise everywhere, and, in short, that there would be no bounds to the prosperity of the manufacturing industry of the country. (Hear, hear.) Then, Sir, the hon. member called on all Christian men to put down what he called an impious monopoly, which took from each working man's shilling that fourpence with which he might have been enabled to purchase tea, coffee, and clothing. The hon. member called on us to abolish that impious and unchristian law, which in 1841 was proposed, as the hon. member asserted, for no other purpose than to take one-third of the earnings from the wives and families of the poor men, to increase the overgrown wealth of such men as the Duke of Buckingham and Sir James Graham. (Hear, and laughter.) Sir, I rejoice to see the right hon. baronet sitting there in his place, as large as life. (Laughter.) I rejoice to see him looking all health and content, the effect perhaps of contemplating those untold bags of wealth he possesses, in preference to contemplating the ruinous policy of Free Trade, of which now he sees the fatal effects. (Laughter.) I rejoice that the right hon. baronet is not the victim of that imprecation put up to the Almighty when he addressed the electors of Dorchester:—

"May I be cold before that dreadful day,  
    Pressed with a load of monumental clay,  
When thou, Imperial Troy, to fate must bend,  
    And see thy warriors fall—the glories end."

How changed since that time is the national prosperity. Prosperity, wealth, full employment, all greeted this land in 1845. All were happy, all were increasing in wealth. Now we see nothing but ruined commercial houses, and a starving people—starving in the midst of plenty, starving at a time when we are thanking the Almighty for his bounty and goodness in sending us such a bountiful harvest. (Hear.) Then we stood under a protective law—content to carry on our prosperity, our wealth, and our manufacturing undertakings, in the old trade-wind of national and commercial protection. (Hear.) And when the trade and commerce of the country were wanting in prosperity—not content with this prosperity—we must listen, unhappily, to the seductive language of the right hon. Baronet and the hon. member for Stockport. Trade and commerce, which before we were prosperous, were blighted by the treacherous breath of Free Trade. (Hear.) How changed are now our prospects—how applicable the words of the poet:—

"How like a younker, or a prodigal,  
    The skarfed bark puts from her native bay,  
    Hugged and embraced by the strumpet wind!  
How like a prodigal doth she return,  
    With over-weather'd ribs and ragged sails,  
    Lean, rent, and beggar'd by the strumpet wind." (Cheers.)

Lord J. RUSSELL: Sir, before I allude to the speech of the noble Lord the member for Lynn, I wish to make a few remarks in answer to the observations, couched in a temperate tone, made by the hon. member for Middlesex, who asked for some explanation of what her Majesty's Ministers proposed to do for the government of Ireland. The hon. member inquired about one measure with regard to Ireland which passed last session, and had relation to advancing sums of money for the improvement of the land. The hon. member asked why this measure had not been acted upon. I beg to tell the hon. member that all the official persons are now engaged in carrying that measure into effect; and I am happy to say that £1,500,000 has been applied for under the Act; that half a million has already been sanctioned by the Treasury; and that the Act is in full operation. Of course there are many preliminary inquiries to be made, forms to be entered into, and securities to be examined, before the money can be advanced. This, no doubt, has had the effect of disappointing many who may think that the advances ought to have been made earlier; but the Act has sanctioned prescribed forms, and they must be complied with. With respect to the measure itself, I trust it will be the means of working much benefit to the parties who obtain these advances; and at the same time of affording increased employment to the people of Ireland. The hon. gentleman asked a question about the bill in relation to encumbered estates. I assure him that the measure was only delayed on account of the advanced period of the session, and the strong opposition it met with. That bill has received the attention of Government, and will soon be introduced either in this or the other House. I attach the greatest importance to a measure of this kind; for I believe one of the greatest evils under which Ireland now labours is the nominal possession of estates, the owners of which have neither the means of improving them, nor of doing justice to their tenants. I think persons who have large estates in such a situation, by selling them at once, would render them valuable. I assure hon. gentlemen generally, with respect to emigration, that I hold emigration to be a useful subsidiary in some respects; but, at the same time, I do not believe there is that amount of over-population in Ireland which some appear to contemplate. (Hear.) I believe that agriculture—that great branch of industry—if pursued with skill and science, would be the means in Ireland of supporting as great a population as here. There is another measure to be introduced in the course of the Session—the amendment of the Grand Jury law. (Hear.) These are measures which we believe will tend to the improvement of the country. There is also another measure which involves a subject of vast importance, which is so difficult to deal with, that, although we have devoted the greatest attention to it, and have gone into the details with the utmost care, we have been as yet unable to determine on such a measure which shall combine improvement of land in Ireland with the undoubted and undefeasible rights of the landowner. The question of landlord and tenant is a very difficult one. If we look back to what has happened in Ireland, it will be found that, for the last ninety years, or going on towards a century, the landlord and tenant question has been a source of bitterness—has produced violent outrages, and has been met at different times by the severest penalties of legislation. But still the landlord and tenant have never been placed in such a situation as that they could act with reciprocal kindness and confidence, though such a state of things was especially necessary. The question which creates this difficulty began before the Roman Catholic question. It is with apprehension, but, at the same time, with hope, that her Majesty's Ministers approach the consideration of this question. Her Majesty's Government, as I have already stated, have devoted their earnest attention to the subject, and they regret they cannot have the advantage of the advice of the late Lord Besborough, who had well considered the question, and who only deferred bringing in a bill on the subject until he could be in his place in the House of Lords to explain the principle of his measure. The death of this nobleman has prevented her Majesty's Government from knowing his views on this subject, and that is a source of much regret. I hope I have now said enough to show that we are not liable to be charged with that which the hon. gentleman did not formally bring against us, but which he intimated—namely, that we had only coercion in our minds. I think, as strongly as any one can think, that coercion is a totally mistaken policy. I think strong laws to prevent and to check such atrocious crimes as are committed in Ireland are necessary at the present time. But I consider these laws as necessary for no other purpose than for the protection of capital, and that consequent improvement which is so necessary for the further progress of Ireland. When I say I wish to see English capital find its way to Ireland for the further improvement of land, I must say that when parties possessing property observe crimes of such magnitude and atrocity as those committed in Ireland, and the language which is used to instigate to such crimes, the natural effect is to make them pause, and by this means to prevent capital from being sent which otherwise might be sent to Ireland. I do hope, therefore, that, if we are successful in repressing crime, that any measures of that kind may be placed amongst those which will tend to the improvement of Ireland. Sir, I will say no more of that measure, because, in a few days, my right hon. friend will have the opportunity of stating its general character and details. Now, with respect to the noble Lord; I must own that the phrase of a statesman whom he admires so much—I mean Mr. Canning—namely, "that a great deal of good indignation had been thrown away," seems applicable to a great part of the noble Lord's speech. (Hear, hear.) I thought, when the right hon. gentleman who sits next him (Mr. Herries) asked for an explanation, why

we did not enter into the question of the Bank of England, and the measures we had lately taken, by which the law might have been infringed; and my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, in answer, that as the whole evening had been taken up in the discussion of Irish matters, that he thought it better to postpone the Bank discussion till Tuesday next.—

Lord G. BENTINCK: That was on the Address.

Lord J. RUSSELL: I thought that a fair arrangement between the right hon. gentleman and my right hon. friend; and the right hon. gentleman, who is as competent as any one to form a judgment in such a case, seemed satisfied; and I really thought that we should have heard no further objection to the course which he had proposed. But if the right hon. gentleman or the noble Lord had said last night, either of them, that they wished the discussion to be then taken, or that they thought that, upon bringing up the report, the question should be entered into, my right hon. friend would have been ready to take that course, because he could have no personal feeling in the matter; because his attention has been drawn to the subject for the last six weeks, and his mind having been fully prepared, he could as easily have stated his case then as he will on Tuesday next; and, therefore, the arrangement was one which was made with a view to general convenience, and yet it seemed to me as if the noble Lord could hardly recover from his indignation, that no explanation on this topic had been received to-night. But, Sir, the noble Lord takes this opportunity to go much further than the particular measure of which he appears to complain; but of which I do not know whether he complains or not. We thought it necessary, in a great emergency, to say to the Bank of England that we recommended and advised them, if necessary for the accommodation of the public, to advance their notes upon public securities—upon approved securities; and that if thereby the act of 1844 was infringed, we then would come before Parliament, and would ask for an indemnity for those who infringed the law. Having done so, we thought it our duty to advise her Majesty to summon Parliament together at the earliest period, in order that we might state to Parliament what we had done, and that we should abide by any consequences arising from the steps we had taken. If our conduct had inflicted a public injury—if our conduct had been inconsistent with our public duty as Ministers of the Crown—if, for some fancied occasion, we had given the advice to suspend the law—then, Sir, the noble Lord has the right to bring forward a resolution or resolutions censuring our conduct; but it does not appear that he has done that. We have thought it fit, we have thought it our duty, to summon Parliament, and we think we did right in summoning Parliament at an early period; and yet, because we propose that the discussion in reference to the Bank shall be postponed from one Tuesday to the next Tuesday, the noble Lord seems to think that we refuse to give any explanation to the House. I beg, however, to assure the noble Lord that he shall have the fullest explanation from my right hon. friend of our conduct—of the circumstances under which that measure was adopted—of the circumstances which, in our opinion, justify that measure—and a statement of the consequences which have flowed from it, because those consequences, in my opinion, have shown that we were not mistaken in the step which we took. These consequences have shown that, consistently with maintaining the convertibility of the bank-note with the credit of the Bank of England, we could restore public confidence, which was at that moment greatly impaired. The noble Lord alludes to the circumstances which prevailed at the time of our taking that step; the noble Lord has alluded to the Liverpool deputation which waited upon me. Sir, the noble Lord has evidently mistaken the sense of the answer which I gave to that deputation. Of course, it was not for a Minister of the Crown on such occasions, when a matter is under deliberation, to state that any step has been taken which has not been decided upon by the Government. It was not for me to state what we would do in certain cases. My answer to that deputation was, that I saw no public advantage in interfering with the conduct of the Bank of England; but the Government will not preclude themselves from taking any measures that may be found necessary. That was my answer; but as the deputation were about to retire, one of the gentlemen said to me, "Shall we come again to-morrow to receive your answer?" I said, "I can give you no hope that if you do call again my answer will be different from what it is to-day." This noble Lord is pleased to interpret in this way—that I said I could hold out no hope that we would adopt any measure in reference to the Bank. The noble Lord has gone into a great deal of declamatory matter, into which I will not follow him. Then, Sir, with respect to our proposing the rate of interest to the Bank—the rate of interest which was demanded by the Bank of England and by private parties was 7½, 8, and 9 per cent. We felt it necessary to name the rate of interest, and we do believe that in our naming the rate of interest consisted the safety of the measure which we authorised; and if, as the noble Lord has intimated, we had advised a general issue of bank-notes at £4 16s. and £5 per cent. interest, there would have been no such safety. But the noble Lord has thought proper on this occasion to raise a kind of song of triumph on the lamentable state of the country, and the extreme prosperity of foreign countries. Amongst other things, he has talked of the recent French Loan. We have had occasion to borrow this year, and we borrowed at £89 18s.; the French have made a loan at 7½ 25c. This does not show, by comparison, that our credit is so bad as the noble Lord supposes. Sir, the noble Lord went on, and I confess I found it impossible to follow him on the subject of the calamities which have occurred; and he refers to Protection and Free-Trade, and the Monetary Laws of the country, which, as far as I could observe the noble Lord's reasoning, showed no more connection between them than did the man who declared that Tenterden steep was the cause of the Goodwin Sands. (Laughter.) There have been Free-Trade measures, and there has been a great depression in the trading and commercial community; but the connection between the two things the noble Lord has failed to establish. I should like to ask have we had no period of commercial pressure in former years? Was there no commercial distress in the year 1793? Was there no pressure in the years 1825 and in 1839? Were not these periods of great depression? Or even in the year 1775—was not that a period of great depression and even of famine? And yet at that time many of those duties which have since been abrogated were in full force. Those Protective laws did not prevent that depression and revulsion of the trade of which the country has so many times been the scene. I agree with the noble Lord, partly, in what he has said in respect to railways. I, however, have never attributed so much as others have done to railway speculations. Undoubtedly, railway speculations are to be taken as one of the causes—as North American loans, and South American loans, may also be considered as amongst the causes—of commercial panic and distress. But to say the whole of our present distress and revulsion of trade is attributable to these causes, is, I think, attaching an exaggerated importance to those causes. Unfortunately, I believe that whether we have a system of Protective duties, or a system of Free-Trade, that in this country make your laws with regard to your trade or your currency as you will—when this country, by its industry and the activity given to capital, seems to have risen to great prosperity—that on that prosperity is built a system of artificial and fictitious credit, which is sure at one moment or the other to bring on a revulsion of that prosperity. I fear it is inseparable from the great enterprise of a great commercial nation; and in many of those instances which the noble Lord has referred to, as that of Bavaria and others, there have arisen many panics which have not been so extensive as they have been here; and why? Because there is no country where commercial transactions are so vast—extending, as they do, over every part of the globe—hence the effect must be great in the different quarters of the world. It was long ago said by Lord Chatham that the credit of this country was like a sensitive plant, which shrunk from the touch; but, if that axiom were true in that day, it was more so now when our substantial wealth was much greater than it then was. If that be the case; if undertakings be entered into, if engagements be made, whether in trade or otherwise, we find immediately an enormous amount of capital embarked, there must be the consequence of an undue extent of engagements which must be changed and collapse, during which the country must undergo great difficulty. The noble Lord has talked of cotton wools being too cheap at Liverpool, and he says that all this is the consequence of a system of Free-Trade. I do not know what the noble Lord meant by making this allusion. Does he seriously mean that it is a misfortune that Liverpool is the great dépôt; that cotton is brought to that market in vast quantities, and that the great continental merchants and manufacturers seek for the article at Liverpool; that they buy there according to the prices; and that at one time prices will be low and at another high? According to the scale of prices, so they buy. I think that when the prices are low that is a circumstance which the people of Liverpool would not look at with alarm. But it is a complaint of the noble Lord that cotton and cotton wool are admitted at a low duty. We know that many years ago, when the duties ranged from 60 to

The merchant makes his own calculations of probable profit or loss. It is better to leave him to sell at either a profit or loss than laying it down by an act of Parliament at what price the commodity shall be sold in money. Now, with regard to the actual state of the country, the noble Lord thinks that the want of protective duties and the laws relating to the currency have brought us into a state which he calls no less than that of shame, of bankruptcy, and disgrace. Sir, I should be sorry if these terms were applicable to our present condition. (Hear.) I do not think that they are by any means applicable to the case. I do conceive that it is owing to the extent of speculation. I do not take the case of railways alone. I might take other cases, which would probably lead to equally great expenditure; and when the calamity with which we were visited obliged us in one year to import food to the extent of £30,000,000, value—I believe that, from these, and other circumstances, we have a great revolution in trade, and great distress among the commercial and manufacturing interests. But, I do not believe, I cannot, for a moment, give credit to, the statement of the noble Lord, that we are in a state of shame, of bankruptcy, and disgrace, or that we shall not rise again to prosperity, and that the energy and intelligence of the British merchants, with the advantage, as I believe, of the change in the tariff, will not again enter into competition with any nation in the world. (Hear.) I do not find, that, in the last few months of the calamity under which we suffered—I do not find that, in the nine months ending the 10th of October, there is any reason to consider this country in that state of decline or ruin which the noble Lord, with a good deal of exultation, attempted to prove. I find that, in the nine months ending on the 10th of October, 1845, the declared value of British and Irish exports was £41,732,000; on the 10th October, 1846, it was £40,000,000. On the 10th October, 1847, it was £39,975,000. Now, although there certainly was a falling-off, it was not of such an amount as to fill any man with despair or despondency. I say it is not a falling-off, after some years of prosperity, which should lead us to despair of a return to our prosperity. This falling-off has been in a time of great calamity. American exports from Liverpool are to be looked at. The amount of exports of British manufactured goods from Liverpool to the United States, for the three quarters ending October 10, 1846, was £4,030,203; and, for the three quarters ending October 10, 1847, they were £6,291,017—making a difference on the amount of exports to the United States, in the two periods, of £2,260,814. That shows, according to the wholesome process of trade, and of exchange, that the amount of food imported into this country has been in greater quantities than usual, and has been the cause of greater export of manufactures. It is to that export, to the return of gold which we have sent, to the favourable exchanges, and to several other circumstances of a favourable augury, though I do not look to an immediate restoration to prosperity, but to a gradual state of better things—that I do hope we shall return to our wonted prosperity. The noble Lord speaks of the Estimates, and has said that they are to be framed according to the rules of economy. Those are not the phrases used in her Majesty's Speech: the words used by the noble Lord are not those which appear in her Majesty's Speech: the words are, "They will be framed with a careful regard to the exigencies of the public service." I beg to assure the noble Lord and the House, though the state of the revenue in its principal branches may be declining, yet anything which we may think necessary for the due maintenance of the establishments of the country, or anything essential for the defence of the country, at any time, we shall ask Parliament to approve, and that we shall not be deterred by any fear of not having the approbation of this House from asking for such supplies as may be necessary. I say—perhaps unnecessarily—we should be deterred by no fear of the disapprobation of this House, because I believe it to be the desire of this House to give such supplies as may be necessary for the public service—to take care that this realm of England is properly supplied with all the means of defence, and that our greatness and our power shall be maintained on the same scale as heretofore. (Cheers.) Sir, with these views, therefore, I differ much from the noble Lord. I agree with him only in the facts as they relate to the present state of distress and embarrassment. In his opinion, that there never was so gloomy a Speech. I do not agree. There have been far more gloomy periods in the history of this country. But, Sir, I have always found, and I have always read, in those times when I took no part in public life, that, by the energy and spirit of this country, those periods of difficulty have been surmounted. (Hear, hear.) I believe that the present period of difficulty will be surmounted. (Hear.) I do not say that it will be surmounted by the wisdom of the measures of her Majesty's Government. I say that it will be surmounted by the energy, by the noble character of the nation. But, so far as going along with the nation, as approving of its efforts, and as not despairing of its efforts, I say the Government will prove itself not unworthy of the nation. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. G. R. ROBINSON said, that after a period of thirty years of uninterrupted peace, the country found itself now in a condition which, without entertaining any desponding views, was more discouraging than at any period he ever remembered. Whenever such remarks were made as those addressed to the House by the noble Lord below him (Lord G. Bentinck), as to the depressed condition of the country, they had always been met in that House by similar predictions of returning prosperity as those given by the noble Lord at the head of the Government. Looking, however, to the energy and enterprise of commercial men in this country, he (Mr. Robinson) was not disposed to take a desponding view of the future; but he told the noble Lord that if the energy and spirit of the people were not assisted and supported, the country would continue to retrograde. Though the noble Lord seemed to entertain a doubt that Free Trade had anything to do with the existing distress, he should have thought the noble Lord, seeing the utter failure of Free Trade principles, should recommend the abrogation of the Navigation Laws, as another mistaken step in the same direction. He (Mr. Robinson) did not object to an inquiry into the operation of those laws, in order to consider what modification could be made in them, applicable to the extensive changes in the times, and the due maintenance of the maritime power of the country. He implored the Government not to consider the present state of things could be lightly passed over, and he trusted the inquiry promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be honest, general, and *bond fide*, in order to dispel the complication of difficulties which now surrounded the commercial world. Nothing but a general searching inquiry will secure any permanent improvement; but that conceded, he should not despair that the prosperity of this country would, at all events, to a certain extent, be restored. On the subject of Free Trade he concurred in every word that had fallen from the noble Lord the member for Lynn, but thought the noble Lord had not dwelt with sufficient emphasis on the effect which Free Trade measures had produced upon the labour and industry of the country. True, great mercantile houses had been brought down; but had not that been attended with the destitution and misery of the population? He was anxious to hear the hon. member for Stockport (Mr. Cobden), whom he had never yet seen, prove whether or not his predictions of benefits to manufacturers, as the result of the adoption of Free Trade principles, have been realised. The manufacturers might suffer the last, but they would not suffer less than other portions of the community. He was no monopolist, but wished to see the labouring classes improved in their condition, and with that view he trusted no further concessions would be made to Free Trade principles.

Mr. HUME said, that his hon. friend (Mr. Robinson) was true to the principles he had ever maintained when formerly a member of the House. From those principles he (Mr. Hume) then and now dissented, and felt surprised that his hon. friend, connected as he was with the association of the shipping interest, should not have acquired better information as to the effects produced by the abolition of Protection, and the adoption of the principles of Free Trade. He denied that Free Trade had produced the events which had recently been seen. Those events had arisen from speculations carried on by a system of credit. It had been seen that many of the great houses which had gone had been for years in a state of bankruptcy, and many of them ought not to have been in existence ten years ago. He concurred with the views expressed by the noble Lord at the head of the Government as to the causes of the calamity. He thought that by a system of artificial credit all, both high and low, in this country had been living beyond their means. The Government had set the example of extravagance in all its departments, and until the expenditure of the country was brought within a proper limit, the people would not change. By the abolition of the absurd blockade of the coast of Africa, under pretence of putting a stop to the slave trade, he could show that £1,500,000 of the public money might be annually saved. The smuggling of men could only be put down by doing that which was in our power—making free labour cheaper than slave labour. (Hear, hear.) He entirely agreed with the noble Lord at the head of the Government, that occasional crises could not be prevented in a commercial country; but it was most important to trace them to their right causes. Though he had supported the Banking Act of 1844 he had never anticipated that it would afford security against these revolutions. He regretted that that law had been set aside on what he must consider a flimsy pretence. The frequency of such expedients rendered all laws uncertain. In allusion to the state of Ireland, the hon. member said, he sincerely rejoiced in the declaration which had been made by the noble Lord (Russell), in reference to the intentions of Government as to Ireland. But, until perfect equality was secured to all classes, and their church put on the same footing as in Scotland, there would be nothing like permanent improvement in that country. He was prepared to support the proposed coercive measures, through the faith he entertained in the present Lord-Lieutenant; but he could not consent to make such measures of general application. He regretted the parade in "the Speech" about the treaty with the Republic of the Ecuador; he considered it nothing better than a continuance of the farce this country had long been engaged in. This republic was a little place without even a port. It might have been wished that the Royal Speech had contained some allusion to the effects of our interference in Spain and Portugal. (Hear, hear.) We were actually at an expense of a million a year to support the rotten Government of Lisbon. (Hear.) It was high time every nation was left to manage its own affairs.

Mr. G. BANKES said, he wished the hon. member for Montrose had informed the House what foreign countries were those which were anxious to reciprocate with us the benefits of Free Trade. He presumed it was not the Ecuador—which, he said, had no port. (Laughter.) The right hon. member for Tamworth had pointed out Naples and Russia as countries likely to act with us on these principles. Nevertheless, it must be admitted, that the predicted advantages of Free Trade had hitherto been positively falsified. It had been prophesied, that speculations in corn would be diminished, that the prices would be steadier, and that wider markets would be opened to our manufacturers. Had either of these predictions been verified? Quite the contrary. Witness the recent ruinous speculations in grain in the present year, the fluctuations in price between 4s. in August and 11s. in May; and the disastrous state of the foreign markets for our manufactures. In every respect, the Free Trade predictions had failed. The Bank Charter Act was another subject which had equally falsified the predictions respecting it. It was to prevent panics; and now, within three years, one had occurred of a more serious character than in any preceding period; and the right hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer—an avowed disciple of the right hon. member for Tamworth—had been compelled to make himself the instrument for suspending that Act. It was well to do this; Government had much to answer for in not having done it sooner; they were thereby answerable for the ruin that had

previously come on many commercial houses. Having stood out against London, Liverpool, Newcastle, and other places, they had yielded at last—as was stated in the papers—to a representation from parties connected with the northern collieries. (Hear.) No one who knew the right hon. Baronet, the Home Secretary, could ever suppose that he had acted on that occasion from any other than the most honourable motives. At any rate, the House was entitled to know—and he hoped some of the Ministers would state it that evening—why the interference had been made just at that moment, and not much earlier. These violations of the law were becoming common. Last year, a similar violation was made by the right hon. the Secretary for Ireland; and these things were no light matter, even when they produced public benefit; as, he believed, had been done in the present case. The reference to this matter in "The Speech" was made in most remarkable terms. Her Majesty was put forward as having recommended and originated the violation. It would have been more fitly stated that her Majesty's advisers had recommended this be done. Still he quarrelled not with what had been done, except in so far as related to the fixing of the rate of interest. On these points much more explanation was due from the Government. The House did not even know whether they meant to do anything at all with the Act of 1844. If that statute remained as it was, some provision, at least, for emergencies must be made before the close of the session. He considered that Ministers were bound to explain why their interference was made at that particular moment, and to give this explanation in the present debate.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said, the hon. gentleman who had just sat down had reminded the Government that it had been their fate during the two years they had held office on two separate occasions to be obliged to exceed the law. Now, if it should be the fate of the Government for a third year to hold office, and circumstances should arise in which it should be necessary for some great interest in the country to take upon themselves the responsibility of again exceeding the law, he could only say they would not fear to do so, and would throw themselves without dread on the judgment of the Parliament of England. (Hear, hear.) That was the only answer he should make to an observation which he supposed was meant as a taunt. The last two years had presented difficulties of an extraordinary character, and he should have been ashamed of the Government to which he belonged if they had hesitated to stay the progress of great and appalling evils by adopting the course which they had found it desirable to pursue. (Hear.) He would not anticipate the discussion with reference to the Bank of England, which would more properly come on when his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated all the circumstances which had led to the course the Government had adopted, and it would be impossible to answer any specific question on the subject without going into the whole circumstances of the case. (Hear, hear.) He had hoped the speech of his right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury had disposed of that part of the subject which had led any one to connect the commercial distress which had recently existed with the failure of the Free Trade policy of the Government. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman had spoken of the evil of the introduction of all the corn into the country which had been imported, but he thought when the ordinary supplies had been cut off it was a proud reflection to think of the enormous quantity of human food which the commerce and wealth of the country had attracted to our shores, and to complain of it was tantamount to finding fault with a man for going to a baker to purchase bread for his family when they were starving. (Hear, hear.) As to the policy of foreign nations, he was convinced that the example of this country had produced the most marked results, and he would not then go further into the question than to instance the United States of America. No later than last December, the Legislature of that country had revised their whole tariff, and made some reductions in it most important to this country; and it was well known that the party who pressed for such ameliorations were mainly assisted in gaining their object by instancing the liberal policy which England had adopted. (Hear, hear.) When the proper time arrived, he should be prepared to go more fully into the questions involved in the speech of the hon. gentleman who had last addressed the House. (Hear.)

Mr. NEWDEACON condemned the operation of the Bank Charter Act, under the operation of which, with £8,000,000 in the coffers of the Bank, there had been a greater pressure than when the Bank had only £4,000,000 in the year 1840, and £2,000,000 in 1839. The distress in the country at the present time was most fearful. There were now 10,000 men in the manufacturing districts out of employment; and every day brought accounts of more mills being closed. How could it be said that the present condition of the country had no reference to Free trade, when they had evidence of increased imports in other commodities besides grain? Pressed by the exigency of the times, some public journals had used language tending to harden the hearts of their countrymen against the distress of the labourers who were, and would be, thrown out of employment; and he thought he was quite justified in complaining in that house of such a course being pursued. The *Spectator* of this week had the following passage on the subject:—"The worst dark spot in the prospect for the winter lies in the discharge of railway labourers. These men are not numerous enough, perhaps, to impart anything of an insurrectionary character to the disturbances which they are sure to create in want and idleness; but they are strong, brutal men—they have been pampered—they will feel the pinch of destitution, and will be doubly exasperated by the appetite for enjoyment and the gnawing of hunger in their robust and angry stomachs. Crime will abound this winter—crimes of violence and hateful excesses; and extraordinary precautions must be taken to check the lawless, if we would not have the horrors of stormed cities in our towns and rural districts."

Mr. F. SCOTT thought that every topic which had been introduced into the Royal Speech, and everything which had been omitted from it, was condemnatory of the policy of the Government. (Laughter.)

The Report was then brought up, and the Address having been agreed to, it was ordered to be presented to her Majesty.

The House adjourned at half-past nine.

HOUSE OF LORDS—THURSDAY.

The Earl of SHAFTEBURY took his seat on the woolsack at four o'clock, when Earl Pomfret, Earl Cowper, Viscount Canning, Lord Foley, Lord Dunally, and the Bishops of Lincoln, Ripon, and Oxford, took the prescribed oaths and signed the Rolls of Parliament.

Earl SPENCER, the Lord Chamberlain, appeared with his staff of office, and read the following answer from her Majesty, to the Address:—"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address. It will be my constant desire to co-operate with you in all measures calculated to advance the interests and the welfare of my Kingdom." Which was ordered to be entered upon the Journals of the House.

Lord BROUGHAM begged to ask some member of the Government, whether they had any information with respect to the question of slavery in the Brazils, within the last two years, to communicate to the House? Probably, although there might be none in the Colonial Office, some might be found in that of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Earl GREY: The information received by Government was generally published from year to year in a series of State Papers; therefore, there could be no objection to furnishing them to the House.

Lord BROUGHAM: When might they be expected to be laid on the table of the House?

Earl GREY: Without notice of the question, it was impossible for him to say. He was afraid that much valuable information was contained in volumes laid before their Lordships, with which they were more acquainted with the outside than the inside.

Lord STANLEY saw, by the votes of the other House of Parliament, that it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to move for a Committee of that House to enquire into the causes of the recent commercial distress, and the question of banking generally. He had also understood that it was not their intention to make a similar motion in that House. He gave notice that, on Tuesday next, he would move the appointment of a similar Committee of their Lordships; and he trusted it was not trespassing too far, if he asked the noble Earl whether that motion would be opposed, or meet with the consent of Government?

Earl GREY: The question had been under the consideration of her Majesty's Government, and it was the intention of his noble friend, the President of the Council, to give notice of his intention to move for such a Committee, the first night that he was present in his place.

Lord STANLEY: Under such circumstances, of course, his notice would be withdrawn. He begged to remind the noble Earl that no mention of any intention to move such a motion in that House.

Lord REDESDALE had, on a former night, asked a question as to the way in which it was proposed that the bills should be introduced into Parliament. The answer he received was, that from the nature of the Government Bills, they must necessarily be introduced in the other House. Since then he had received a private communication, saying that one bill would probably be introduced into their Lordships' House. It was essential that their Lordships should be informed of the business likely to be brought under their consideration—with the pleasure of the House, he would again repeat his question.

Earl GREY:—The noble Lord had correctly stated what had passed on a former evening. In the absence of the Lord Chancellor and the President of the Council, it was impossible for him to give a definite answer.

Lord REDESDALE: Would the noble Earl say what was the nature of the bill to be brought in at this House?

Earl GREY would rather not. It was very inconvenient to give a promise which circumstances might prevent being carried into effect.

Lord ASHBURTON: It had been stated to him that so late as Thursday last, it being the usual weekly meeting of the Directors of the Bank, those gentlemen had come to the resolution of reducing the rate of interest upon discounts to 7 per cent., but, being still in possession of the letter of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, they had communicated their resolution to the Government, and postponed acting upon it without their sanction—he was further informed that no communication, in answer, was received from the Government until Monday last. He wished to ask whether, under the pressing circumstances which had existed, the whole commercial world was kept in such a state of suspense, as must consequently follow the knowledge of such a state of affairs from the Thursday to the Monday.

Earl GREY said: The practice which prevailed in that House, of asking questions without any notice, was one which was attended with much inconvenience. With respect to the question of the noble Lord, he was unable to answer further than to say that his noble friend the first Lord of the Treasury, and his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been in constant communication with the authorities of the Bank, and he had no doubt the formal communication was in accordance with a previous understanding.

Lord ASHBURTON would renew his question to-morrow, and trusted, in the meantime, the noble Earl would inform himself upon the subject.

Lord STANLEY: Could the noble Earl give any intimation when the motion for the Committee on the Currency would be made?

Earl GREY, in the absence of his noble friend, the President of the Council, could not do so.

Lord STANLEY: Then my motion will stand upon the books at present. The House then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—THURSDAY.

At four o'clock the Speaker took the chair, and announced to the House that he had received a letter from Mr. Cowan, who had been elected as one of the representatives of the City of Edinburgh, in this present Parliament, announcing that that gentleman was disqualified from sitting in that House, in consequence of his being a contractor for the supply of stationery to her Majesty's Public office. He was not aware at the time of his election, that this circumstance constituted a disqualification, but he now must decline taking his seat in the House.

A petition was presented against the return of John Reynolds, Esq., as member for the City of Dublin.

A petition was likewise presented against the return of Mr. Heald, for Stockport, which he trusted would be acceded to.

The SPEAKER reminded the hon. member that there was then no question before the House, and that consequently he was not in order.

Lord G. BENTINCK suggested to the hon. member that he should give a notice of the motion he intended to propose.

Mr. BROTHERTON wished to suggest to the House, whether it would not be advisable that, until after Christmas, Orders of the Day should take precedence of Notices of Motions. (Cheers.) No hon. member could desire to be detained in town at this season of the year (cheers and laughter); and he thought they ought to confine their attention solely to public business of great importance. (Renewed cheering.) He thought that if this suggestion were adopted, it would expedite public business, and tend greatly to the convenience of the House. (Cheers.)

At a later period of the evening, Sir J. PAKINGTON gave notice that he should on an early day move that, until Christmas, Orders of the Day should have precedence of Notices of Motions.

Lord G. BENTINCK gave notice of a motion for returns relating to the East and West Indies, and the Mauritius.

Mr. BANKES obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Poor-Law Administration Act.

On the motion of Mr. B. OSBORNE, certain returns relating to the Management of Estates by the Court of Chancery, in Ireland, were ordered to be presented to the House.

JEWISH EMANCIPATION.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave notice that he would on that day fortnight move for leave to bring in a bill for the relief of her Majesty's Jewish subjects from the disabilities under which they now laboured.—In the course of the evening, several petitions, for and against Jewish Emancipation, were presented by different hon. members.

BANK DISCOUNTS.

Sir CHARLES KNIGHTLEY moved for a return of the minimum rates of discount charged by the Bank of England since the passing of the Act of 1844, showing the variations in such rates.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER had ascertained from the Bank authorities that they entertained no objection to making the returns in question.

Mr. F. BAILY hoped no delay would take place in laying before the House all the documents intended to be presented with regard to the Bank of England. Mr. HASTIE suggested that the return should go back to the year 1835.

The motion was agreed to.

SCOTCH

## MANCHESTER ATHENÆUM—MR. COBDEN.

At the fifth annual *soirée* of the members of this institution, which was held on Thursday last, Mr. Cobden made his first public re-appearance since his return from his lengthened tour upon the Continent; and, on that occasion, delivered to a crowded and highly intelligent auditory, one of those harangues, full of truth and benevolence, which has so often from his lips stirred up, and forced conviction upon, even the most reluctant minds, as well in the Legislature, as in public assemblies. The views, recollections, and hopes of such a man, with reference to a land so interesting as Italy, must gratify and instruct, even under ordinary circumstances; but, at the present moment, when the hour of her regeneration is at hand, they will be accepted with that admiration and strength of faith which await the words of genius on all critical occasions. We, therefore, give, somewhat fully, some extracts from the hon. gentleman's speech.

After adverting to some local topics, he had, he said, on entering the hall, asked a friend what would be the best subject to talk about that evening, and he was advised to dilate, as a great treat, upon his foreign travels. The difficulty was where to begin; for the realms through which he had roamed ranged from Cadiz to Nizhni Novgorod. He had been advised to tell them something about the European extremes—Spain and Russia. He certainly ought not to speak of his trip to the Continent at all, without taking that, the first public opportunity of expressing his thanks as an Englishman for the cordial welcome he had received in every country it had been his fortune to visit. He said “as an Englishman,” because it was something rare in the annals of the world, that a foreigner should travel into almost every country of the Continent, and should in each find men prepared publicly to sympathise with principles with which he happened to be identified in his own country—these principles being applicable, as they at home had thought, only to the domestic concerns of their own people. (Cheers.) Without entering on a question which even there might be considered to embrace controverted points, he merely submitted the fact of an Englishman being so received abroad, as a proof, at all events, that they were enlarging the circle of their sympathies; that the sphere in which political action was working was widening in their day; that instead of separate nations viewing each other with that narrow, jealous spirit, which once was mistaken for the particular patriotism, they were becoming willing to enter into more generous calculations of their own and their neighbours' interests; and the whole world was approaching the time when it would, as he hoped and believed, be discovered that the interests of all were identical. (Loud cheers.) Well, he had observed at the two extremes of his peregrination a curious feature; at one end and at the other extreme of Europe, he had found the Oriental type predominant. In Andalusia he had perceived the remains of the Moors, as evidenced in the dress and habits of the inhabitants, and their architecture: and at Moscow, the old capital of the Czars, he encountered the remains of the Tartars, the former predominance of the race being testified by the same signs, in the dress, the buildings, and the customs of the people. At these two limits, and, indeed, without so direct an assimilation at such opposite points, the reflection had perpetually been forced upon him, “We are so similar, there is so little real difference between us, in our moral attributes at all events so directly the same, alike in our sympathies and antipathies, and having thus so palpable a cause for union, what was it, he had wondered, that had made this one family of man so long enemies?” (Cheers.) There was a little comedy with a deep moral which had lately been performed with great success at Paris, entitled “Fante de s' Entendre.” The plot rested upon a series of mistakes; the parties in the scene, because they were ignorant of the original intentions of each other, consummated a variety of blunders, and were subjected to innumerable hardships; and at the conclusion it was discovered that each might have been very happy if one had only known what the other had been about. (Laughter.) Through all Europe he believed the same play had been played by successive Governments, a misunderstanding being the best defence for all the mischief they had occasioned. (Hear, hear.) At times the comedy had become a tragedy, and human happiness and human life had then been sacrificed, simply because general ignorance prevailed of the one common good. (Cheers.) And, therefore, if they could only find out the means—and sometimes in Manchester they had been vain enough to suppose they had discovered the key of the secret—to demonstrate to the different nations of Europe that their interests were identical and universal, they would confer the greatest blessing on humanity ever devised since the creation of the world. (Cheers.) In that most interesting country, interesting to them all, and with which so many of their associations of literature were connected—he meant Italy—he found a new life springing up; and when he inquired how it was that Italy now began to make itself heard and felt through the rest of Europe, he had come to the conclusion, from all he had witnessed, that the regeneration arose from the quiet progress of thought and intelligence dependent upon the bettered education of the people. He had found that in that country great efforts had been recently made for the education of the masses; to his astonishment he had discovered that in almost every town of 15,000 or 20,000 inhabitants, there were established several infant schools, supported by voluntary contributions, and superintended by Italian nobles. He had even at Turin fallen in with a school where a Marquis attended daily as director, joining the children in their play, and riding with them on a rocking-horse. (Laughter.) There were now in Italy, as there had always been, leading minds, great and striking individualities, in all directions—men who had been engaged in discussing every question of social importance: in every town of Italy men were to be met with who took a deep interest, not only in schools, but in prison discipline, and all other questions affecting the moral condition of the people. He had been especially amazed at the number of practical people who sympathised with their efforts and controversies in England on the subject of political economy. Every lawyer, every counsellor in Italy, now studied that science as a part of his professional education, and hence arose the deep interest there taken on that subject in which they had so long and so ardently engaged in England. To this quiet, slow, and gradual influence of the few on the many, and not to popular commotions and angry outbreaks, was the existing hopeful condition of Italy attributable. Violence and revolution retarded progress; and he traced to institutions, which had been everywhere founded in that country, kindred in their characteristics to the Athenæum, though not exactly the same, all the improvements which had lately arisen there. (Hear, hear.) He joined with the worthy Chairman in saying that it was by the progress of the human mind alone that Governments could progress, or that good Governments could be maintained at all. He agreed further with the Chairman in saying that, in these times, public opinion controlled Governments: and he would say still more emphatically, speaking from experience, that there was no such thing as despotism now, in the old sense of the word—that public opinion ruled more or less everywhere—ruled better in proportion as the people were wise; and give him the compound ratio of intelligence among the people, and he would describe to them the character of the Government, no matter what might be its form or structure. (Cheers.) If they inquired from him, after his long tour, what now recurred to his memory, with the sincerest pleasure he was bound to say it was Italy and the Italians: not on account of those monumental remains which demonstrated the boast of the Italians that they had twice given civilisation to the world, but because of the enjoyment he had derived from intercourse there with the minds of some of the most distinguished men of the day. (Hear, hear.) He liked intercourse best with existing intellect; he passed by the aqueducts, the tombs, the columns, and the ruins; and among the Italians were at this moment to be found, not indeed among the mass of the people, but in the middle and upper classes, some of the most amiable and accomplished and interesting men now living. (Hear, hear.) He argued that in the present effort that was being made in Italy, they would see progress just in proportion as the people became more and more enlightened. They had in Italy now, as always, a first-rate natural quality in the race; and if the people were but left to themselves—if they but obtained that privilege which we claimed invariably for ourselves—if the Italians were only permitted, unmolested, to work out their own regeneration, he doubted not that that same race from which civilisation had twice before proceeded to the rest of Europe, would again effect their redemption. (Loud cheers.) He earnestly seconded the advice of the Chairman to all young men with respect to the study of the modern languages, and he (Mr. Cobden) could speak feelingly on that topic. Oh, if he had his time over again, and were in the beginning placed in the situation of many young men in that hall, he would not arrive at the age of twenty-five without obtaining the perfect mastery of French, German, and Italian. Perhaps a hundred years hence English would be spoken by a greater number of human beings than had yet existed; but at this moment French was the language of intercourse for the travelling Englishman in every corner of the Continent; and he recommended the study in Manchester because he hoped, ere long, to see the time when operatives from this part of the world would start in cheap trains to Paris. (Loud cheers.) He wished to see the different people of the world married, instead of those matches between Princes from which spring so much turmoil and confusion. (Cheers.) He would not deduce any more moral from his voyaging. He had returned home, as he had set out, satisfied that it was in institutions like the Athenæum they could find, not only the great distinctive character of the English people from the whole of Europe, but that there also they must seek, in the improvement of mind among young men and adults, that superiority which in some respects we did possess over the continental nations. (Cheers.) With those nations we get the credit of having within ourselves the character and spirit of associations; how could that spirit be better directed than to the maintenance of such institutions as this? They might take for granted that, if they could not co-operate successfully for such an object, they would fail in any other movement they might undertake. (Cheers.)

After some further remarks in conclusion, the hon. gentleman resumed his seat, amidst the most enthusiastic applause.

## LITERATURE.

## HINTS TO THE SICK, THE LAME, AND THE LAZY; OR, PASSAGES IN THE LIFE OF A HYDROPATHIST. By A VETERAN. Oliver.

The head and front of this book remind one of the Old Man's “Bubbles,” which, some years since, sent thousands of invalids to the Brunnens of Nassau, and thus soon converted a cheap and quiet retreat into a focus of extravagance and fashion. The resemblance of the “Hints” to the Old Man's volumes, however, soon disappears: we look in vain for his quiet humour, his felicitous illustration of every-day matters, and his abundant common sense, which is brought to bear upon every point of consequence to the reader. In short, never was more delightful Guide-book written than the said “Bubbles.” In the “Hints,” the Veteran is ever aiming to be smart, and, accordingly, his failures are frequent; however, some of these are droll enough, just as certain small wit of the day is estimated by the inverse ratio of its goodness.

The Veteran opens with a strong fire upon the Britisher's fondness for physiology—the Drugophobia—in lieu of which the author recommends the Water cure. At starting, he however, allows that—

“Hydropathy has much to contend with.” One difficulty is, that of procuring proper baths and attendants. This is, indeed, set at rest by entering a Water-cure establishment. Another difficulty occurs in the case of the man of pleasure, who, having been emaciated by an irregular or luxurious life, would, in the majority of cases, reap great advantage from the course; but then, he is unwilling to enter upon a new mode of life, and to submit to the restrictions which are indispensable to a cure. Such a man is likely to remain in the trammels of the old system, and he may be patched up without making any great deviation from his habitual mode of life. If he swallows a commensurate amount of physic, he need not be urged to take very violent exercise, and may continue to indulge in his snug little dinner, and pint of wine to match. The time demanded for the cure of chronic complaints, by hydropathic treatment, forms a still more formidable objection, one which, to the man of business is almost insurmountable, is, that it claims from all a degree of faith which is not readily accorded; especially when it implies the abandonment of comforts to which the patient has been long accustomed. The patient would, indeed, find that the system recommended is full of enjoyment, and that the simple diet of the water-cure patient is relished with a gusto unknown to the pampered slave of calipash and calipee—to those comfortable *gourmets*, who begin dinner with soup, fish, and *pâté*, washed down with two or three glasses of sherry, whilst he would acknowledge that his postprandial lightness of spirits far more than compensated for any degree of abstinence, and his unbroken slumber sends him forth to his day's work like a giant refreshed; yet I scarcely hope to persuade any one. I am not aware that I have ever been able to induce any one to change his opinion on any subject much less to adopt a new system. I can scarcely expect that I am now to commence a successful era in persuasion; but I do hope that I may succeed in inducing some few to turn their attention to the subject, and to consult the works of those authors who have written scientifically upon it.”

There is much shrewdness in these preliminaries to the statement of how the Veteran was led into watery ways—how he got the gout by eating and drinking 365 good dinners and 365 pints of wine annually—how he placed himself under homoeopathic treatment, and soon grew well enough to journey to Switzerland—how the gout re-appeared, and he rejected Golchicam—and at length journeyed to Boppard, where there are two water-cure establishments; and in one of them, the Anstalt, superintended by Dr. Halmann, the Veteran becomes located. We quote a portion from the next chapter, on Treatment:—

“On the following morning (after my arrival) I was awakened by Jacob at half-past four, who requested me to jump out of bed, which cooling prescription having been followed, he laid on the bed a double-milled blanket (it is always a part of my baggage now), on which he spread a damp sheet, and suggested the propriety of my lying down on the same, which I did, and he tucked me up in it, leaving out the feet, and then he packed the thick blanket over feet and all, tucking it in as if he would throttle me. Then came the elder-down couvre-pied, tied on my chest, and two more blankets, and over all my blue cloak. At first, my sensations were those of a man who lies down on a wet sheet; but, after four or five minutes, every disagreeable feeling vanished—and within half an hour I was fast asleep. By half-past six or seven I was in a perspiration, when I was put into an empty tub, and a sheet being thrown over me, sundry buckets of water were poured upon my head; and when I was thus well ducked, two attendants rubbed me dry with a clean sheet, and so ended the introductory scene. I was desired to drink three or four glasses of water, and to take a brisk walk (twitch Spaziergang); after which I breakfasted, and at eleven o'clock I had the brause-bad or shower-bed, which finished my water performances for the day. On Sunday the latter operations are remitted, that the attendants may have at least half a day of rest. I have mentioned the first day's operations in a very cursory manner; it was but a prelude to the grand system of attack, by which Herr Gout was to be dislodged. I was not pleased with what I had already done. It appeared to me that I should soon be sick of the treatment, and I began to speculate upon making some excuse to cut and run. This feeling gradually wore away, and, having thus begun on Sunday, by Thursday I was not only reconciled to, but enamoured of, the cure. During my whole stay at Marienberg, I never missed one bath, nor once neglected to drink my prescribed glasses of water, nor failed to take a sharp walk after each bath. I may mention, that the British are accounted the most regular patients, and the most obedient to authority. On Monday began my great course. At half-past four I was eingepacht, but without the application of the damp sheet, three blankets, a feather-bed, and my military cloak, forming the packing, and I was left alone. The sensations produced are most agreeable and soothing. I never swallowed opium; but, from the accounts I have read, the sensations I experienced were of the same nature as those produced by the use of that drug. Two hours, or two-and-a-half, passed away without tedium, in a kind of dreamy dose; and, when Jacob visited me, he found me in a profuse perspiration, and judged me quite ready for the plunging-bath. He took off the cloak, bed, and upper blankets, and, loosening the thick remaining blanket at the bottom, exposed my feet, and put on my slippers, so as to enable me to hobble, not more than my own length, to the wheeled chair. As my arms had been tightly laced down to my sides by the indefatigable exertions of Jacob, I was, much like a mummy, unable to move hand or foot. I was lifted up, set on end (the slipper end), and assisted to the wheeled chair. As soon as I was debout, my cloak was thrown over my head, and again a sheet over that, in the form of a monk's cowl, and a towel bound tightly round my ankles: thus the escape of caloric was obviated. My one-man chay was rolled to the trap-chair, and I was in a moment lowered into the bath-room, on the rez de châsses, where the Bademeister and his deputy received me with kindly greetings, and in a trice divested me of all my wraps, and told me to plunge into the bath. It looked clear and blue, the sun was shining into the room, and its rays glancing on the water; the scene might truly have been styled inviting; but it occurred to me that the change of temperature would be disagreeable, and I rather funk'd. This feeling was but momentary. I scrambled into the bath, and soon found it most agreeable. In a few days I found the plunge-bath (after the introductory perspirations) so attractive, that I longed for the time of its enjoyment, and during my walks I enjoyed it by anticipation. After a short swim in the bath I got out, a dry sheet was thrown over me, and I was rubbed unmercifully by two pair of hands, my cloak thrown over my shoulders, my slippers put on, my sheet formed into a cowl, and I scampered off to my room, where I found the attendant Jacob, who performed the mystery of the an-binden. It is thus: A strip of coarse linen cloth, about a foot broad, and long enough to go three times round the body, is wetted at one end, sufficiently to admit of the damped part going round the body, the dry part of the bandage covering that which is wet, and excluding the air; the attendant stands still, holding the dry end, whilst the patient applies the wet cloth, and rolls himself up tightly and ties the strings, to keep all snug. This bandage must be put under the ribs, so that the play of the lungs be not affected. It is worn day and night, and only removed to be redamped, in the morning, after the plunge-bath; at mid-day, after the douche au brause-bed; at five, P.M., after the sitz bath; and perhaps again on going to bed. This is one of the grand discoveries of modern science, and supplies the place of seidlitz powders, and such like abominati. I then finished my toilette; with me the reaction “as so very strong, that I was able to do this; but, in general, it is better to huddle on the clothes and walk at once.” I was generally out by seven o'clock, and, having, during my toilette, and in the court, drunk my five glasses of water, I started with alacrity straight up hill.”

The table of the Anstalt is then detailed. The foundation of the breakfast is sour milk, a good rich mess, which the author has failed in getting since his return to Britain. This he attributes to the vicious extension of the water-practice. He adds: “if the cow be milked in the neighbourhood of the pump, it is needless to attempt to make the refreshing preparation to which I allude.” To this sour milk are added grated rye-bread, sugar, and sweet milk; and this, with rolls and butter, grapes, apples, and pears, forms the meal. “It is notorious,” adds the writer “that the water-system induces listlessness;” and, in illustration, he adds, “I usually read only some light German work, and not much of that.”

After the brause-bad comes the dinner, at one o'clock:—

“In the water-system, there is no retraction as to quantity, provided only that the food be plain, and the drink water. A good soup, with lots of rye bread, a good roti, with two or three kinds of vegetables, and a capital sweet soufflé, pudding, or so on. The meal concluded by a very ample dessert, similar to that enjoyed after breakfast. At three o'clock I took a rational walk, and enjoyed the society of my own party. I ought to observe, that it is no part of the system to drink much water at meals; I only took as much as I required to slake thirst. After the baths is the favoured moment for a good swill.”

“The remaining bath, which was taken about five o'clock, is by far the least interesting, in fact. The sitz bath would have been a bore, had it not been taken in company. Were it not for this agreeable means of whiling away the quarter of an hour, devoted to the sitz bath, I think that I should have found out that it was not required in my case. As it is, I do not know to which of the abductions I am indebted for the admirable result produced.”

“Many of the patients, as a prelude to the sitz bath, take the abreibung, called in England the dripping sheet. I was not ordered to do so—and the course first prescribed was so agreeable, and so satisfactory in its effects, that I was loth to make any change. The sitz bath room contains ten or a dozen sitz tubs. I arranged so as to occupy my tub in company with many others; and the *coup d'œil* was sufficiently ludicrous, to see the tubs set round the room, each containing a man, of whom you saw only the head and the heels. They were, also, natives of different parts of Europe, and we heard complaints or directions given in English, French, or German—the dinner water prevailed, it was the only class of invective which the Bademeister could understand, and the German is more hostile to cold water than any other nation of Europe, perhaps excepting the Russians, if these semi-Asiatics are to be classed with Europeans. For some days I passed one-half of my sitz bath time in laughter at this inter-

esting group. I usually drank three or four glasses of water whilst sitting, and having been rubbed dry, I started for a long walk.”

Then comes the supper—potatoes and milk, rolls and fresh butter. An hour in the reading-room or billiard-room follows; and by ten o'clock the patient is in full score. Such is the course of a water-cure. The expense is moderate: the whole need not exceed two pounds sterling per head per week, including every charge for lodging, food, medical attendance, and servants.

The remainder of the work is occupied with anecdotes of the patients at the Anstalt—some seventy persons, one-fourth British; and including two philosophers, one most distinguished novelist, a poet, two reclaimed physicians, several members of different branches of commerce, three or four veterans, some young soldiers, two Grifens, one Baron, two students, and one Lutheran pastor.

This is, altogether, an amusing affair of a book; though its information lies in a chapter or two, it is adapted for valetudinarian tastes. It is studded with illustrations, in which there are some achievements in the grotesque; they are, however, in hard and vulgar *caricatura* style, and not entitled to any higher mention.

## THE POST-OFFICE LONDON DIRECTORY—1848. Kelly and Co.

This is the forty-ninth annual volume of the Directory; and to say that it maintains the reputation of its predecessors is but trite praise, and scarcely its full meed; for the present volume exceeds its forerunners by nearly 50 pages, and a like assurance of completeness. It presents, perhaps, an unequalled mass of local and specific information, in some 2000 pages; and is, certainly, too big for a hand-book, which the Editor, modestly, terms it.

The labour of the arrangement and classification of the materials, for such easy reference as is here insured, must have been excessive; and unsparing industry and experience were indispensable to such completeness. The changes and improvements are numerous and evident. We must especially mention that the work is worthy of the patronage of her Majesty's Postmaster-General, by its general completeness, but specially by the fulness of that division of the work which bears out its title, and is more immediately under the supervision of its proprietor—the “Postal Directory,” into which has been introduced all the emendations rendered necessary by new Treaties with Foreign Powers, and by the recent Packet alterations, &c.

The success of this work, hard-earned as it has been by years of daily and nightly toil, has called up a few detractors—some Jones or Smith, whose name may have, unfortunately, been omitted from its lists. It were unreasonable to expect a volume of this bulk free from such specks of imperfection as these which grievance-mongers rejoice in pointing out; whilst, on the other hand, they grudgingly allow the vast amount of labour requisite to produce the entire work. With a distinct recollection of the Directories of the last thirty years, we are confident that in no work of its class has so much time, pains, and money been expended to complete a most useful design—as in the “Post Office London Directory for 1848.”

## THE CHILDREN'S YEAR. By MARY HOWITT. Longman and Co.

This is a welcome “Christmas book,” from a pen which has often delighted children of every growth. It is, too, novel in material as well as manner: it is the chronicle of an actual year—of “simple, artless childhood”—of the voluntary occupations and pleasures, and of the sentiments and feelings, as far as accurate knowledge of them could be gained, of the author's two youngest children. It is, therefore, a “Year-book of Facts”; or, as Mrs. Howitt says, “every thing which it contains is strictly true.” We like the plan; and the execution is successful: it is a series of pictures of life in little—of innocent pastimes—of graceful nature, and of the young heart, long before it receives the taint of leaven of what is vainly called world-knowledge. The other point of novelty is, that Mrs. Howitt, having looked at things from the child's point of view rather than from her own, has written, in some measure, *down to the child's level*; and this has been done upon the author's own knowledge of children, founded upon the every-day experience of many years. This is altogether opposed to Scott's plan, which was to *write up* the tender mind, by placing the subject above it. We prefer the maternal experience of Mrs. Howitt, and the little volume before us is an earnest of the attractiveness of the plan. We quote a passage, merely pramising that Herbert and Meggy are the happy little children of the “Year.”

## MEGGY IN THE QUEEN'S GARDEN.

“One day Ellen took Meggy to Claremont; it was on a day when little Louisa was gone to see her mamma in London, and so they went by themselves. Meggy was very much interested about the Queen and her little children; she often used to wonder whether the little Princes and Princesses played at living in a house as she and Herbert did; she wondered whether they used broken earthenware for plates and dishes, and whether they had ever made such a thing as a wet sand pudding.

“The walk to Claremont was very pleasant; the sun shone through the branches of the large trees in the park; the grass was soft and green; they stood under the trees, and it seemed as if they were within a green tent; they heard the wood-pigeons cooing around them, and saw a little squirrel springing from one branch to another.

“Meggy had heard stories read of Kings and Princes who lived, ‘once upon a time,’ in enchanted palaces, in the midst of old woods, and now, when they ascended the Mount, with its old fir woods, lying so quietly in the sunshine, and the old grey tower at the top, she felt as if all this must indeed belong to a fairy tale. They walked on and on, as it seemed, a long way from the house; now they came to beautiful gardens, and a conservatory, and a lovely Gothic temple, which rose up silently and gracefully in the clear sunshine. She looked through the conservatory windows, and saw palm-trees and beautiful tropical plants, with their gorgeous flowers, all as still as in a dream. She never thought it possible that she could go into the conservatory, and yet she felt some way as if she were in, and was looking up all among the tops of the broad-leaved and feathery palms, and it was just like being in an enchanted land.